

of the small blood vessels of the cord at the seat of fracture. The extravasated blood has gravitated to the lower part of the spinal cord, pressing upon it near the cauda equina, and thus destroying all reflex mobility in the parts supplied by nerves which arise from the spinal cord below this point; and thus too, a low form of myelitis has been set up, perpetuating the mischief.

HYSTERICAL PARAPLEGIA.

Eliza Duff, *ætat.* 35, married, was admitted into the Montreal General Hospital, June 9th, 1863, under the care of Dr. Reddy.—Family health was good; but one of her sisters, after the birth of her last child, was very subject to hysteria. This sister had always been troubled with strongly-marked anomalous symptoms of it, but she now remained bed-ridden, imagining she could not walk, and died in ten weeks after delivery. The strong hysterical diathesis of our patient was not controlled even by her invigorating employment of farm laborer, and it was intensified by marriage. Temperate, and with excellent general powers, she has yet been habituated to the use of quack medicines for many imaginary disorders. Her catamenia appeared at 14, and there has been no evidence of any irregularity; she has had six children, four were births at full term, two were miscarriages. The first premature birth was at five months—the last at three months, and occurred in June 1862. Her first and third living children were delivered by the forceps; there was great soreness after each operation, but no evidence could be discovered of laceration, or of any lesion of the nerves from pressure of the head.

Five weeks after the birth of her first child, twelve years ago, patient suffered from mammary abscess, followed speedily by trembling and great weakness of the legs when she attempted to stand. She recovered in a few months, but two weeks after the birth of her second child, she was seized with lumbar pains, and her right foot dragged. The disease gradually advanced; but, from the badness of her memory, I could not obtain the sequence or progress of the symptoms. Three years ago she could walk with a chair; but in a few months it failed to afford her any assistance. Three months since, a burning sensation began in both calves, and passed down to the soles of the feet, where it seemed to concentrate. It was accompanied by various anomalous sensations: thus, the patient would sometimes take off her shoes to see if her feet were burned. At the same time too, she found it difficult to micturate; but did not require the use of the catheter till after her admission. There is no pain on pressing or percussing the spinous process, nor on any dorsal