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### WHY THE DELAY IN RECOGNIZING LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA?\*

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It may seem presumptuous for one to take up the time and attention of this meeting in merely trying to lay emphasis upon conditions which are already well known to all of us, and which, too, many of us take for granted, are or should be known by every one aiming to practice medicine. But judging from the frequency with which the early manifestations of locomotor ataxia are attributed to and treated for some entirely different diseased condition, it is evident that more attention should be given to this disease and allied conditions, and greater stress placed upon the importance of the early recognition of such symptoms as are usually found in the early stages. Furthermore, since it is well known that when once the destructive changes in the neurons of the central nervous system have taken place, no form of treatment can restore them, and since the pathological-anatomical changes in this disease are ultimately destructive in character, it is only too evident that the earlier the character of the disease-process is recognized and appropriate

\*Read at meeting of Alienists and Neurologists, Chicago, July 12, 1915.