

GRAVES' DISEASE, WITH A REPORT OF THE SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF A CASE.*

BY

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In undertaking to read a paper on Graves' disease, I do not presume to offer anything new or to give a satisfactory explanation of the singular combination of symptoms usually found associated together in this troublesome malady; but having had a case under my care for the last eighteen months I propose to refer to some of the main features of the disease and glance at a few of the many theories that have been brought forward to account for them, touching upon some of the various plans of treatment which have been tried to counteract their influence. I hope that in the discussion which may follow, some ideas may be gathered from the experience of others which will be found helpful in the future.

Under the name of Graves' Disease or Exophthalmic Goitre we designate a group of symptoms, the chief of which are increased size of the thyroid gland, an accelerated pulse, and exophthalmos—protrusion of the eye-balls. A number of other disturbances are usually met with, chiefly in the nervous and circulatory systems, but these are usually secondary and not characteristic of the disease.

Exophthalmic goitre has been recognised and more or less accurately described for more than half a century, but up to the present time the researches of the best pathologists have failed to give a rational and satisfactory explanation of its main features. Professor Osler, of Johns Hopkins, speaks of it as "a singular disease arising from an *unknown cause*." As early as 1825, Pavy described some cases of the disease under the designation of "an enlargement of the thyroid gland in connection with enlargement and palpitation of the heart," but among eight cases reported by him, exophthalmos is mentioned in only one. The Germans claim that Basedow was the first to accurately describe the disease, in 1840, while the English usually assign the credit of the discovery to Graves. From that time to the present many widely different theories have been advanced to account for it. Most of the observers, such as Graves and Basedow and their contemporaries as well as many since their time, sought to find the essential cause in a morbid state of the system like that of chlorosis, while others considered the heart the point of origin. Later observers, for the most part, have regarded

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