

repose last for, say, a couple of hours, some bad cases of dyspepsia from insufficiency may derive a good deal of benefit: from faring well and listening to other men speaking ill or well, at lunches and dinners.

A Death from Hydrophobia

The long incubation period of rabies cannot be understood, if the virus travels through the blood vessels of the bitten part; but becomes more intelligible, if we admit that it reaches the nerve centres through the sheaths of the injured nerves. The known fatality of bites by mad dogs about the face and head, and the brevity of the incubation period in such cases are also explainable upon this ground, the injured nerves being so close to the brain axis. G. E. Seaman, a soldier of the Norfolk Regiment, stationed at Gibraltar, was bitten by a mad dog. He and another man, who was bitten at the same time, were sent to the Pasteur Institute, Paris, in September, 1909. Seaman's comrade died within a month, but he returned to England, and no symptoms of hydrophobia occurred until a week before his death, when he complained of pain in the elbow of the arm which was bitten. The pain spread to the shoulder and then to the back of the neck. He was admitted to the Hackney Infirmary, March 29th, 1910, and a diagnosis of hydrophobia was made. During his terrible sufferings Seaman was quite sensible, and was able to give a collected and rational account of his illness and of the treatment he had received at Paris. Towards the end, he complained of great difficulty of breathing, and he prayed the doctor to cut his throat, so that air could be got into his respiratory organs. A post-mortem was made, but nothing was found except a little inflammation of the brain and kidneys.

In the report of this case, which appears in *The British Medical Journal*, April 2, 1910, p. 851, nothing is said about the condition of the spinal cord.

That the chief symptoms of hydrophobia are due to morbid changes in the cranial nerves, and that death in this disease is