

Then, if you take another class—cases of ununited fracture; we used to operate on some of these cases in the upper limb, but in the lower limb the risk of pyæmia was considered to be too great. In the five and three-quarter years to which I have referred, I have operated eight times in ununited fracture of the thigh, nine times in the leg, four times in the humerus, and five times in the forearm, giving twenty-six cases, and in every one of these the patient is alive and well; not one died. Then I would allude for one moment to that piece of statistics to which Mr. Bryant so disparagingly referred, which has been published by my friend Mr. Cheyne. I will not dwell on the cases of injury, because confessedly such cases are uncertain; but I do say, when you have a series of twenty cases where healthy joints have been opened and kept open without a single failure as regards the septic element, it is a fact of great importance. Here I come to another order of statistics, where as far as I am able to judge, we have evidence of a new principle coming into play. I may be wrong, but it seems to me that if you were to open a healthy joint, and to keep the wound open, and to put a drainage tube into it, take it out every day, wash it, and put it in again, if you did not use antiseptic means of some sort or other, you would have more or less of inflammatory disturbance, and it would be impossible to have a condition of things which we look upon as normal, absolutely no tenderness, no redness, and no increase of temperature. I say, as far as I am able to judge, this is a kind of fact of a new order, which shows that we have a new principle at work. It has therefore seemed to me more important to publish cases of this kind, even though they be only individual cases which have been somewhat hardly reflected upon. When a new principle is propounded, I cannot regard these statistics of individual cases as unimportant. I say, if a case show new pathological facts, one individual such case is worth as much as a million. I have published numerous cases, for instance, to show that a great abscess connected with disease of the vertebræ may be opened by free incisions, a drainage-tube introduced, and strict antiseptic treatment used; and then from that hour I never had another drop of pus. I say that fact is as beautiful in pathology as it is useful in practice. I have shown, over and over again, that you may have exposed in an open wound a blood-clot, and that this blood clot, no matter how large, may remain not only free from putrefaction, but may remain indefinitely without suppuration, so that when you, in the course of time, peel away its upper surface, you find a scar without a single drop of pus having been formed. That, I say, is a fact new in the history of surgery, and indicating that we have a new principle.—*Brit. Med. Jour., Dec. 6, 1879.*

prescribes an aqueous solution in parasitic skin diseases, an alcoholic solution in itching due to urticaria and pruritus, an ointment in all forms of eczema. It may be also dusted over a part in powder. The ointment is of the strength of 10 parts in 50; the solution, of 10-20 parts in 300.—*Der Practische Arzt.*

APHASIA AND RIGHT-SIDED HEMIPLEGIA DILATATION OF THE STOMACH

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You remember, no doubt, this case of aphasia with right-sided hemiplegia, which I lectured upon at a former clinic. You will call to mind that there was some rigidity of the affected muscles, and very marked loss of the power of speech—so marked, indeed, that the man's whole vocabulary was reduced to two words, "yes" and "no." I diagnosed the aphasia to be due to a lesion in Broca's centre of speech consequent upon the formation there of a small clot, which condition had, I believed, been followed by subsequent softening. When I began to treat the case I aimed partly at a restoration of the power of speech and partly at an improvement of the nutrition of the patient's brain. The second indication was fulfilled by the use of phosphorus and cod-liver oil, and by the occasional administration of iron—remedies calculated to regenerate and nourish the nerve tissues and brain substance. To this we added plenty of good nourishing food.

Under this regimen the patient gained flesh and color, and his right-sided hemiplegia largely disappeared, nothing remaining except a slight feebleness of grasp in the right hand. As proving that a brain lesion existed, the patient had convulsions two or three times while in the ward. These convulsions were preceded by vertigo, and accompanied by flushing of the face and other signs of marked cerebral congestion.

I am afraid that the brain lesion itself will never entirely yield to treatment, but you may be interested in another point. Has the patient's power of speech returned? What success have we had following our efforts in that direction? With this purpose in view we began to train the patient to talk as one could teach a child. We did so at the expense of a great deal of time and trouble. We made him repeat words after us until some of these words remained in his memory, and then we were delighted to find that some words began to come back to him which we had not previously suggested to him.

You will ask me, no doubt, whether I believe this improvement to be due solely to the nervine, we employed, or whether it was largely owing to the plan of treatment we pursued at the same times