

THE CANADA LANCET,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE.

VOL. XIII. TORONTO, JUNE 1ST, 1881. No. 10.

Original Communications.

APHASIA OR ALALIA.

Delivered before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Ottawa.

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In this age of progress, the strain upon the system is varied and interesting, and no where is such more observable than in the alterations and vibrations of nerve power, in the genus homo, the outcome not alone of the great intellectual struggle, but of the requisite effort to grapple with the varied circumstances of life. Thus we daily observe how diseased manifestations find their way to the surface, and complicate the distribution of that nerve power so requisite to maintain functional activity and organic structural perfection, in the most comprehensive sense. No question is now attracting a greater degree of interest than that of "cerebral localization." Fashion and new fangled phraseology are certainly very attractive, still we cannot underestimate the importance of the new facts which have resulted from recent and careful investigations. In the brain we have represented a very confederation of varied and diverse nerve centres, not conflicting in their actions, but rather working together as a whole, for the maintenance of health and vitality. Careful investigations having defined in a manner, physiological functions of certain cerebral parts, we have thus clearer ideas of any pathological conditions which may develop. Thus from the normal healthy nerve centre and defined function, have we a clue to the abnormal deviation of nerve power. The more carefully we inquire into this subject, the more self-evident it becomes, that great care is necessary in making a physiological analysis of the disorders or deviations of speech, in those suffering from lesions of the

brain. How strangely disease within the encephalon frequently acts, notwithstanding the close aggregation of the various parts of the brain. For example, hydrophobia, one of the most fatal of nervous diseases, presents after death, no particular histological changes, and in some cases of violent forms of insanity, no clue to the exact cause has been traced to pathological changes in the brain substance. The problem of mind and matter is one which for many years has disturbed many of the most careful physiologists. Of such we have ample proof in the writings of Brown Sequard; Ferrier, Hammond, Maudsley, Winslow, Ecker, and others well known to the profession. Careful inquiry, in the hands of special observers, is gradually developing a degree of information, satisfactory in character, and much closer to the point than the original ideas of Cabanis, who conceived the idea, that mental manifestations are as much secretions of the brain as bile is of the liver. Brain power controls glandular action. Bile force and brain force each play their part in the animal economy, but act very differently. The one we see and trace in its normal and abnormal distribution, the other we call a force, and know it to be very closely associated with the phenomena of life. Such are the problems which complicate the whole domain of cerebral physiology. The advance in physiological knowledge, since the days of Sauvages and the two Franks, is very considerable, and although for many years a comparative quietus stole over the minds of observers in this respect, we find that since the days of Lockhart Clarke and other cotemporaneous continental workers, much light has been thrown on the whole subject of pathological inquiry by the action of chemical agents on brain substance, and subsequent microscopic examination. This particular era, marked the whole upward tendency of physiological anatomy, and has been the means of conveying to us many of the advanced ideas we possess, based on clinical facts, substantiated by physiological and pathological data.

In order to arrive at a proper estimate of the question of Alalia or Aphasia, it is considered sufficient, by some of our most acute observers, to note carefully a certain number of cases, and to seek in each for the mode of manifestation, of the anomaly of speech. Thus alone is the idea dissi-