

have an ounce weight put into his hand, and if in a few seconds it be removed, and a half-ounce one substituted, he will not be able to tell correctly which is the heavier. Or both hands may be extended, and the two weights placed simultaneously in them.

Paralysis of the bladder is a common circumstance, and the sphincter is frequently affected, incontinence of urine, spermatorrhœa and anaphrodisia are pretty constant symptoms. On the other hand, there may be in the early stages of the disease a morbid excitability of the sexual organs, to such an extent, in some cases, that the sexual desire is almost inextinguishable.

Death may take place, either as the direct consequence of the lesion of the spine, or as the result of some inter-current affection, such as bronchitis, pneumonia, dysentery or phthisis.

CAUSES. The etiology of this disease does not seem to be thoroughly understood. It has been attributed to venereal excesses, and undoubtedly it is in a fair proportion of cases, but this is not as common a cause as has generally been supposed. Of 91 cases which came under the observation of Prof. Hammond, he gives inordinate sexual indulgence as the cause in seven, injuries in four, standing in a constrained position in three, a syphilitic taint in three, undue mental exertion and anxiety in two, and in the remainder there was no assignable cause. Of the three cases which I have been called upon to treat, I think the cause of the first was exposure to wet and cold while menstruating, probably predisposed by the anæmic state in consequence of living in a malarious district: the second from violent exercise and irregular meals, and perhaps cold, as he first felt the amaurosis after taking a long drive in the cold, when he became very much chilled, and the third from excessive use of tobacco, and perhaps assisted by undue mental exertion and anxiety. He also resided in a malarious district and had been subject to ague.

DIAGNOSIS.—Ataxia, it is said, may be confounded with several diseases, especially with simple loss of muscular sensibility, disease of the cerebellum, general paralysis of the insane, general spinal paralysis and common paraplegia, saturnine paralysis, Cruveilhier's disease, paralysis agitans, and with chorea and some other affections of the kind, but fortunately, as a rule, very little attention will serve to prevent such confusion. Simple loss of "muscular sense" has been supposed to be the cause of ataxia, and undoubtedly this