

I believe many practitioners have never seen a case, or at least, if they have, have not recognized it, but mistaken it for some other form of disease. Although perhaps, its most essential features were recognized long ago—as long ago as the time of Sir Charles Bell, it is only within the last few years, since it was described and named by Duchesne, of Boulogne, as *Locomotor Ataxy*, that the attention of physicians has been drawn to it as a special disease. Before his observations were published, it was looked upon and mistaken for some form of cerebral or spinal paralysis—from which it is quite a distinct affection, although closely resembling it in many points.

Mr. R., 59 years of age, of spare form, of exceedingly active habits, and particularly temperate, a teller in one of our principal banks, suffered some years ago from Sciatica in the right side, which resisted all treatment, and he was persuaded by some of his "good natured friends," to visit a water cure establishment in the United States. He remained there about ten days or a fortnight, and returned home but little relieved. The very severe pain however gradually abated, and comparatively speaking, he was free from suffering for a couple of years, when the disease returned in all its severity, and he was again persuaded by his over judicious friends to return to the same water cure establishment. But he suffered so intensely from the treatment there adopted, which was pumping cold water on the thigh from a distance of 10 or 12 feet, that he only remained two days, and on returning home placed himself under my care, and the disease gradually subsided, and he remained well, *i.e.*, without any return of the Sciatica for some 7 or 8 years.

I mention these facts—merely as facts, to give his history as far as I am able, and not because I either believe or think, they had anything to do with the subsequent disease, although he himself could never divert his mind of the idea but that it was a return of his old attack, that notwithstanding the length of time which had elapsed; and that the cold water pumped on his thigh was the cause of his future disease, be that as it may, I think it but right to mention it.

About three years ago, Mr. R. began to suffer from severe pains in his thighs and legs. The pains in the right, the one in which he had had Sciatica some years before, as you will recollect I have mentioned—being much more severe than those of the left.

He fancied at first, it was a return of his old complaint—extending further than before, and called them "rheumatic pains" and did not apply to me for advice, but tried all sorts of liniments that are advertised as cures, for this and similar, and perhaps dis-