

the cold logs, and it is to cold, contracted in this way, that he attributes his present trouble. For several years the pains only recurred at long intervals; but lately he is seldom—rarely more than 24 hours—free from them. They have also greatly increased in severity during the last two years, and especially during the last few months. He first noticed that he was apt to stumble in the dark, five years ago. The ataxia has steadily increased during this period. For several months it has been so pronounced that he has been unable to perform his usual work. With the exception of gonorrhoea, he never had any illness. He is certain that he never had syphilis.

Family history is good. He says he never ate or drank to excess.

*State on the 1st of Oct., 1881, being two weeks prior to the stretching of the right sciatic nerve.*

The lightning-like pains with which he is afflicted recur very frequently; the longest interval of freedom from them during the last year has been only five days. They generally affect the lower extremities. It is but seldom that he complains of pain elsewhere, and then only in the left arm. The pains are of extreme severity, but only of momentary duration. They generally last 24 hours, and during that time are nearly always confined to a small spot. A favourite situation for them is the dorsum of the right foot. When they last for twenty-four hours it is always noticed that the limb which has been their seat has atrophied. Repeated measurements have shown a diminution of half an inch in the circumference of the limb. He is very slow to appreciate painful sensations when applied to the two lower and left upper extremities. In the feet there is an interval of about six seconds before he is able to feel a severe pinch or the prod of a needle. In the legs this interval is five, and in the thigh eight seconds. He feels the simple rubbing of the hairs on his legs much more readily than a severe pinch of the skin. He is able to distinguish, although slowly, the difference between a hot and a cold application, when applied to his lower extremities. With his eyes shut he is unable to touch the point of his nose with either hand, nor is he able to point out the position of his feet. His sight is good, although there is

commencing atrophy of both discs. The pupils react slowly to light, but readily when the eyes are accommodating. There is no myosis or paralysis of any ocular muscle. He is able to distinguish colours. His hearing, taste, and smell are all normal.

He complains greatly of numbness of both lower extremities, and of a very disagreeable sensation, as if the skin were too tight for his legs. When walking he has to keep his eyes on his feet or he would fall, and he feels as if he were treading on some soft substance. There is loss of sensation in the thumb, index, and middle finger of the left hand. He is able to retain his urine without causing him the least inconvenience for over twenty-four hours. To empty his bladder he has to strain very much. He is troubled with obstinate constipation. He says he often feels as if a weight of one hundred pounds was compressing his waist. When standing or walking he complains of what he calls a cramp-like condition of the muscles of the lower part of the abdomen. The patellar tendon reflex is absent on each side. There is no ankle clonus or plantar reflex. The cremasteric and epigastric reflexes are absent. When walking, his knees often give away suddenly under him. He says that for this reason he avoids as much as possible walking on the streets. He has the characteristic gait of an ataxic. He is unable to walk or stand with his eyes shut. Intelligence and memory are not affected. Lately he has been at times melancholy, at other times he is in the best of spirits.

On the 14th of October the right sciatic was stretched. The right was chosen on account of the pain being generally more severe in that limb. The night following the operation the pains set in on the outer side of the right knee, and were severer than they ever had been. The following day they left, and did not reappear for three weeks. This was the longest interval of freedom from the pains since they first commenced, twelve years previously. It is now about eight months since the operation was performed, a period sufficiently long to judge what, if any, influence the stretching has exercised on the disease or its symptoms. The results may be summed up as follows:—