

A CASE OF TIC.

multiplex they are chiefly confined to the limbs, and are under control of the will, which is not the case in this patient.

The case is unusual in the fact that it has commenced so late in life (at the age of fifty-six). Dr. Sinkler states that he never met a case commencing after the age of thirty-seven.

As regards the causation of simple tic:

1. Heredity seems rarely to play a part, and no such flaw was detected in the present case.

2. The disease chiefly begins in childhood, "nearly 80 per cent. commencing betwixt the ages of five and fifteen years." In our patient, however, it did not begin till the age of fifty-six.

3. Habit is often the cause, the condition originating from some irritation, for example, conjunctivitis, and persisting after the irritation has been removed. No such cause could be here traced.

4. Lowered general health.

5. Reflex irritation.

6. Imitation are all given as causes.

7. Optical defects are frequently associated with the disease. "Of forty-nine cases of Sinkler's Series, which were examined by De Schweinitz and Thomson, errors of refraction were found in forty-one of the patients, in two there was conjunctivitis, and in six there were defects in ocular balance."

In our case there was some hypermyopia, but when one considers the extreme frequency of slight degrees of errors in refraction, it is not to be wondered at if they are found in even a large proportion of any series examined. The possibility of a central lesion might be considered, but no other evidence of such is forthcoming, and from the bi-lateral and widely spread distribution of the movements such a cause is rendered very improbable.

If all medicine remedies fail, as they have done so far, and the condition persists in its present acuteness, or becomes worse, some surgical procedure, for example diversion of the nerves, might be indicated, but the chances of this doing good seem small in a case where the movements are present in muscles supplied by so many different nerves.

Note.—28th March, 1901.—For the last six weeks this patient has been taking arsenic in full medicinal doses and he has considerably improved. When sitting still he can keep his eyes open fairly well, but the spasms are still severe upon rising or walking.