

cases of dangerous arteries you will find nothing of the sort in these radials: the vessels being simply too large, too hard, and plainly inelastic. You may then observe the same state of things in the temporals, but in addition you will note these vessels to be extremely tortuous, and in bald persons sometimes coursing up the scalp like cork-screws. The extent of this twisting is pretty conclusive of the degree of obstruction which the blood within the artery has to overcome in the diseased arterioles and capillaries beyond. Such radial or temporal arteries of course, are never single in these morbid characters, for like changes are much more complete in the cerebral vessels, owing to the extreme delicacy and comparative weakness of the connective tissue which surrounds and supports them.

You are now ready both to recognize and understand the import of the peculiar pulse of a person who is in danger of a hæmorrhage into his brain. You should lay the tips of your four fingers on the radial, and note if by moderate pressure the pulse is arrested or not under the upper or first finger. A little practice will show you that in distinction from a healthy pulse, no matter how strong that be, the pulse of such a patient is not easily brought to a stop, but very probably is appreciable by all the four fingers. In a healthy pulse, on the other hand, though beating quite forcibly, as just after exercise, the elastic artery can be quickly compressed, so that the stroke beats strongly against the first finger, but does not pass under it to the remaining fingers, while with this morbid pulse you have to use twice the amount of pressure to arrest the wave. Now, an incompressible pulse like this, occurring in a thickened artery, is often mistaken for a strong and full pulse, whereas it may be quite the reverse of either. It is taken for a full pulse by those who are misled by the touch of a hypertrophied artery, whose real calibre is much less than natural, and an erroneous impression of strength is easily given also by the continued beat or seeming resistance under pressure. In the case of a patient fatally sick with Bright's disease, I once knew a distinguished physician pronounce a favourable opinion as to immediate risk, on account of his

"fine, full, healthy pulse." As the strength of any pulse is wholly derived from the heart, this gentleman would have discovered, if he had listened there, that the heart was beating so feebly that no impulse, and scarcely a first sound, could be made out. If there be some febrile excitement in a patient with an incompressible pulse, you may be quite puzzled sometimes to distinguish it from a strong pulse. But a purely febrile pulse ought to be a compressible pulse, no matter how strong it be, and the heart ought to give you a clearer impression of strength than the pulse; nor will fever ever harden an artery, so that you can feel it in its bed.

(To be Continued.)

PROGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PROGRESSIVE ATAXY AND SPASMODIC SPINAL PARALYSIS.

BY JULIUS ALTHAUS, M.D., M.R.C.P. LOND.

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The *prognosis* in both lateral and posterior sclerosis is, in a general way, unfavourable, as soon as the symptoms have become fully developed, yet every physician who has seen much of these diseases knows of some cases in which complete, or almost complete recovery has taken place. Mostly, however, we must be satisfied if we succeed in arresting the progress and relieving the symptoms of the complaint. The prognosis depends greatly upon external circumstances and the mode of life adopted by the patient. Those who have to work for their living are worse off in this respect than those born with the silver spoon in their mouths; and the rake dies more quickly than the philosopher. Two of the most marked cases of ataxy which I ever saw, occurred, one in a member of the hereditary branch of the British Legislature, who, being of slight physique and calm and fastidious by temperament, surrounded himself with everything that may adorn life, and found consolation for his infirmity in the arts and literature. He lived to the age of sixty, after having been subject to the complaint for upwards of thirty years, and having hardly ever experienced really severe suffering. The other case was that of a hot-tempered Irishman, who,