

tion in all forms of cachexia, should be obtained *pure*; and from the tests given in the extracts already quoted, it will be seen that the common commercial article of the shops, which has been, possibly, exposed for months or years to the decomposing action of light and oxygen, possesses none of the characteristics of the genuine prot-iodide of iron.

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DEFECT AND IMPOTENCE OF MEMORY AFTER PARALYSIS.

BY ROBERT J. GRAVES, M.D., F.R.S.

A FARMER in the county of Wicklow, in comfortable circumstances, when 50 years of age, had a paralytic fit, in the year 1839; since that time, he never recovered the use of the affected side, and still labors under a painful degree of hesitation of speech. He is, however, able to walk about, take a great deal of active exercise, and superintend the business of his farm. His memory seems to be tolerably good for all parts of speech except noun-substantives and proper names; the latter he cannot at all retain; and this defect is accompanied by the following singular peculiarity:—that he perfectly recollects the initial letter of every substantive or proper name for which he has occasion in conversation, though he cannot recall to his memory the word itself. Experience, therefore, has taught him the utility of having written in manuscript a list of the things he is in the habit of calling for or speaking about, including the proper names of his children, servants and acquaintances. All these he has arranged alphabetically in a little pocket dictionary which he uses as follows: if he wishes to ask anything about a cow, before he commences the sentence he turns to the letter C, and looks out for the word “cow,” and keeps his finger and eye fixed on the word until he has finished the sentence. He can pronounce the word “cow” in its proper place, so long as he has his eye fixed upon the written letters; but the moment he shuts the book it passes out of his memory, and cannot be recalled, although he recollects its initial, and can refer to it again when necessary. In the same way when he comes to Dublin, and wishes to consult me (for my name is among the indispensable proper names in his dictionary), he comes with his dictionary open to the hall-door, and asks to see Dr. Graves; but, if by accident he has forgotten his dictionary, as happened on one occasion, he is totally unable to tell the servant what or whom he wants. He cannot recollect his own name unless he looks out for it, nor the name of any person of his acquaintance; but he is never for a moment at a loss for the initial which is to guide him in his search for the word he seeks.

His is a remarkably exaggerated degree of the common defect of memory, observed in the diseases of old age, and in which the names of persons and things are frequently forgotten, although their initials are recollected. It is strange that substantives and proper names, words which are first acquired by the memory in childhood, are sooner forgotten than verbs, adjectives, and other parts of speech, which are a much later acquisition.

A lady about 50 years of age, who was laboring under what is popularly termed a breaking up of the system—that is, a simultaneous decrease in the energy of all the vital functions—showed among the first symptoms a defect of memory similar to that which I have related above. The first name which she was perceived frequently to forget was that of a family with whom she was very intimate, and whom she saw almost every day, and she was much tormented by this defect, whenever she had occasion to refer to any of its members in conversation. After a time this defect extended to the names of other persons and things; in the course of a few months she lapsed into a general want of memory, and weakness of intellect.

It is interesting to compare such cases with the temporary loss of memory which is produced by inebriety, and the permanent loss of the same faculty that shows itself in old age. Such a comparison proves that diseases of the brain occasion a defect of memory, which is but an exaggeration of that observed in old age and in inebriety; and it is, therefore, to be attributed not to the affection of any particular portion of the brain, but to a general derangement of the cerebral functions. Some medical men are inclined to think that where, under such circumstances, the memory is very deficient and the intellect weak, softening of the brain exists; but the preceding observations show that such a conclusion is derived from a very partial view of the subject, inasmuch as the patient, whose case I have first referred to, is still living, and is much in the same state that followed the paralytic stroke eleven years ago.

The effects produced on the memory by paralysis are by no means proportionate to the loss of muscular power that the disease gives rise to; and the same disproportion exists also with respect to the generative powers. Thus I have known several cases in which young men who were attacked with apoplexy and hemiplegia, from which they recovered with a very imperfectly restored muscular power of the limbs and speech, became subsequently the fathers of several healthy children. On the other hand I have seen two cases where the cerebral attack was so slight as not to produce more than a transitory giddiness, a passing feeling of terror, and some hesitation of speech, with a little subsequent numbness in the arm and cheek, and slight weakness of the leg at the same time. All these palpable symptoms passed away within twenty-four hours, leaving behind scarcely an evident trace of diminished power in the limbs, and no impairment of any of the senses, articulation or memory; yet the cerebral attack occasioned, from the very moment of its occurrence, a complete impotency, which in both cases has been for many years permanent, although, as I have said before, both individuals are in other respects quite healthy.—*Dublin Quar. Jour. of Med. Science.*

A CASE OF TRAUMATIC TETANUS, AND RECOVERY.

BY THEODORE S. BELL, M.D., OF LOUISVILLE, KY.

A YOUNG man, named John Varali, aged 22 years, called at my office, in the latter part of October, on account of a severe wound of the