a "Brunel" is bestowed on the construction of yet more engines and machines⁵ that can never, in my judgment, take its place in the safe and successful treatment of this disease. Birmingham.

APHASIA; ALMOST PERFECT RECOVERY AFTER FIVE MONTHS.

BY WILLIAM DALE, M.D.,
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Mr. C—, aged seventy-three, a farmer, was in perfect health up to August 6th, 1877. On that day he wrote a letter, and inquired of his housekeeper if anyone was at hand to take it to the post-office, which is about three miles from his house. On being told that none of the men or boys were about, he said he would ride his pony to the post-office

and post the letter himself. On his way thither he called and looked at some of his men-servants at work on his farm; but they observed that he merely looked on without speaking. He also met some of his friends and acquaintances that he knew, and they also remembered that he merely nodded to them; and on returning home the man who took the pony to the stable after he dismounted asked him a question or two about the work of the farm, and again he only nodded. When he got into the house, as he could not speak, the housekeeper, seeing something was the matter, sent for medical assistance. His medical attendant, Mr. Raven, of Litcham, found him perfectly intelligent, but unable to speak, and with some weakness of the right side (paresis), but not actual paralysis. He remained in the same state twenty-four hours, when I was summoned to a consultation on the case.

I found him quite intelligent, and evidently comprehending all that was said to him, but the symptoms remained as I have described them—viz., he had lost the faculty of speech, and the right side was weakened. Now, however, he could say "yes" and "no," but used the words incorrectly—that is to say, he transposed them. I append a specimen of his writing, which I saw him write before I left the house. From inquiries I made I found that his letters previously were intelligent and well written.

The following extract from a letter which I received from Mr. Raven on Jan. 22nd will show how speedily he recovered his speech, and how well the case has done up to the present time. Mr. Raven says: "He recovered his speech about a fortnight after you were here. Now it is almost perfect. He cannot remember names; knows everyone, but cannot call them by name; attends market, but figures now puzzle him. Deglutition was difficult for about three weeks, and even now he complains of it a little."

The rapid recovery in this case leads to the inference that the cause of the symptoms observed was temporary and probably "embolic plugging of the nutrient arteries of the left centres," and that the circulation and nutrition in these parts were speedily re-established.

I have only to add that the treatment was mainly expectant; the bowels, meanwhile, being kept free, and the strength well sustained by nutritious and non-stimulating food.

Paradise, King's Lynn.

1. Intended for "King's Lynn, Norfolk."
2. For his daughter's name.
3. For "Mr. Raven, Surgeon, Litcham."

THE ARTIFICIAL PRODUCTION OF HUMAN DISEASES IN THE LOWER ANIMALS.

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(Continued from p. 418.)

ALLIED, on the one hand, to rabies, and, on the other, to mania, is *epilepsy*, "something very like" which "occurs in dogs, in horses, and in domesticated birds, and may be artificially produced in the Rodentia," according to Professor Russell Reynolds,¹ who nevertheless denies the existence of such a thing as community of disease in man and other animals. Notwithstanding the Professor's doubts, what he refers to is not only "very like" epilepsy, but is epilepsy itself, as veritable as it is in man.

Epilepsy, epileptiform fits, or convulsions, have been pro-

duced by such experimentalists as Ferrier, Hitzig and Fritsch, Magnan, Brown-Séquard, and Prévost, by such means as the following:—(1) Electric stimulation of the brain; (2) the injection of (a) theine, (b) absinthe, (c) meconate of morphia; (3) hemisection of spinal cord; (4) complete section of sciatic nerve; (5) amputation of a thigh; (6) confinement; (7) change of room or cage.

Hitzig is credited with "the production of epilepsy by tetanising the brain" in the frog.² "Epileptiform convulsions" are given among the results of the application of electricity to the brains of certain animals in the experiments of Hitzig and Fritsch.³ In Ferrier's hands a similar application of electricity—what is frequently spoken of as faradisation of the brain—gave rise to "epileptic convulsions" in rabbits, cats, and dogs,⁴ and sometimes "without any

² "Recent Physiological Researches," in British and Foreign Medical-Chirurgical Review, April 1875, p. 342.

³ Journal of Mental Science, Jan. 1875.

⁴ It is noteworthy that Ferrier found the brain of fowls insusceptible to electric stimulation; while Weir Mitchell has pointed out that the same animals are not amenable to the influence of opium. (British and Foreign Med.-Chir. Review, April 1875, p. 345.)

⁵ THE LANCET, Nov. 24th and Dec. 15th, 1877. Mr. Lund's Visit to University College and Internal Urethotomy, by Mr. Berkeley Hill.

¹ British Medical Journal, Aug. 15th, 1874, p. 203.