THREE CASES OF INTENTION TREMOR AND JERKING
SPEECH PROBABLY CAUSED BY ALCOHOLISM

By William G. Spiller, M.D.

Dr. Spiller said he presented these cases because he had known similar cases to be regarded as examples of multiple sclerosis. The tremor was distinctly of an intention variety and the speech was like that observed in multiple sclerosis. Other symptoms of this disease were not present. All three men had used alcohol excessively. These symptoms are not sufficient to warrant a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. Dr. Spiller had studied two cases with the symptoms mentioned which had been regarded by many as undoubted examples of multiple sclerosis; one was found to be a case of cerebrospinal syphilis, the other one of cerebrospinal arteriosclerosis.

Dr. J. Hendrie Lloyd thought the patients had a very wide intention tremor of a type not unusual in chronic alcoholism. He spoke of an instance of extraordinary alcoholic tremor which had occurred at Blockley. There were two brothers affected with the tremor. One of them, he thought, was on the pay roll, the other a patient in his ward. These men have been chronic inebriates for years. They obtain their discharge from the hospital, go out, keep drunk for several weeks, and are then readmitted. They have a similar tremor, which almost exactly resembles that of paralysis agitans, associated with the characteristic attitude and gait. They are comparatively young men, hardly having reached middle life.

Dr. T. H. Weisenburg said that he had a most excellent moving picture of a patient with alcoholic tremor, one of Dr. Pott's patients. In that particular case Dr. Weisenburg took the picture because of the remarkable resemblance of the tremor to paralysis agitans.

Dr. Cadwalader said that Dr. Spiller mentioned that one of his patients presented some paleness of the temporal side of the optic discs in addition to marked intention tremor. Paleness of the temporal side of the discs is common in multiple sclerosis but is not necessarily characteristic of that condition. Whenever the internal carotid vessels are very sclerotic they may press upon the optic nerves which lie near by and in that way cause paleness of the discs. In Dr. Spiller's patient this may have occurred.

Dr. Spiller said the cases of alcoholic tremor resembling that of paralysis agitans referred to by Dr. Lloyd had been in his (Dr. Spiller's) service and had been used by him in lectures. They were the cases referred to by several speakers.

A PATIENT WITH MARKED ATAXIA OF THE ARMS
AND HANDS

By J. Hendrie Lloyd, M.D.

Dr. Lloyd showed this patient. He was an Italian, aged 30 years, a blacksmith, who had always enjoyed good health and denied venereal infection. In 1910, after working out in cold winter weather, he began to have numbness in both hands, which gradually spread to the arms, then to the feet. Then he began to notice unsteadiness in his walking as though he were drunk, also ataxia in his hands. There were no brain symptoms, and he had control of the bladder and bowel.