was said to him. The fact that he could read was sufficient to distinguish him absolutely from a Broca's aphasia. The lesion in this man's case was probably subcortical and was in the knee of the capsule and the adjacent portions of the basal ganglia, more particularly the lenticular. It is not surprising that such a case should present a difficulty in swallowing, for we have a similar difficulty frequently in pseudo-bulbar palsy. The speech phenomenon in this case was not paralytic entirely. There is undoubtedly present also an element of incoördination.

Dr. Charles K. Mills replied in the negative to Dr. Dercum's statement that he understood that Dr. Mills was a convert to Marie's conception of anarthria and aphasia.

Dr. William Drayton, Jr., reported a case of spasmodic torticollis.

Dr. F. X. Dercum said that he remembered having some years ago had a number of these cases operated on by Dr. Agnew by resection of the spinal accessory nerve. He recalled particularly one old man of the group in whom the spasm was as bad soon after the operation as before, which was not an unusual experience. Dr. Dercum gave the man some powders of chloride of sodium as a placebo. The result was immediate cessation of the spasm. Suggestion may play an important rôle in the treatment of some of these cases.

A CASE OF OCCUPATION PALSY OF THE ANTERIOR TIBIAL NERVE (FLOUNDER FOOT)

By Charles W. Burr, M.D.

W. B., male, 46 years old, bookbinder by trade, but a good bit of a wanderer and jack of all trades, was admitted to the Philadelphia General Hospital, November 8, 1913, complaining of pain in the right great toe and of trouble in walking because of weakness of the right foot. His past history revealed nothing of interest save that gonorrhea was admitted, syphilis denied and alcohol confessedly used in larger or smaller quantities as opportunity offered till about four months ago. Two and a half months before admission and on recovering from a pretty prolonged drinking bout he went to work on an oyster boat as a sorter. His work consisted in squatting many hours a day, the left sole firmly on the ground, the left buttock resting on the back of the upturned right heel, the right knee strongly flexed and the greatly extended right toes resting on the ground and supporting from the heel a large part of the weight of the body. While in this position he would pick up oysters and throw them into different baskets, depending on their size. Suddenly one afternoon on rising, he found he could not bend his right foot upward and that the foot dropped so he could scarcely walk. To use his own words, "the right foot flopped around." His fellow workmen told him that he had "flounder foot," which, according to his statement, is a not uncommon transitory trouble among oysters sorters. The name is rather apt and one which fishermen would be likely to think of. After many days he drifted to Blockley, and on examination Dr. Burr found the following condition. He walked with a distinct right-sided foot drop. The left leg was normal in all ways. There was no trouble either motor or sensory in the arms. He could stand on the toes of both feet and on the heel of the left but he could not flex the right foot at all. The toes of the right foot he could (he said that at first and for some days he could not) extend fairly well. There

was both spontaneous pain and pain on pressure in the right great toe. There was no muscular wasting. He controlled the bladder and rectum well. Both plantar jerks were very active but normal in direction. Both knee jerks were active. The Achilles jerk was present. There was no ankle clonus, nor spasticity in either leg. He showed no general signs of recent alcoholism. There was some pain on pressure over the right anterior tibial nerve. The Wassermann reaction was negative. He became restive under hospital restraint and left in two weeks quite a good deal improved but still having a slight foot drop.

His trouble was manifestly a local one, due to disease of the anterior tibial nerve, and not the result of any general infection or poison. Dr. Burr had no doubt that the cause was the restrained position in which he remained for so many hours day after day. Since seeing him, he had been told by another oyster man that "flounder foot" does occur occasionally among men working on the boats. The only interest in the case is that it adds one more to the long list of occupation neuritides.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE RECENT (SEVENTEENTH) INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDICINE WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO NEUROLOGY AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES,—WITH REMARKS AND COMMENTS ON SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT SUBJECTS PRESENTED

By Charles K. Mills, M.D.

Dr. Mills referred in his paper to the unusual value of the proceedings of the Section on Neuropathology of the London congress. He recalled the first congress of American Physicians and Surgeons in 1888, referring to it and the recent congress as the most important medical assemblages which he had ever attended. He paid a tribute to Sir David Ferrier, the chairman of the section, who had also been an important personality in the American congress. He was impressed by the evidently great time and labor which had been spent in the preparation of the papers presented. America was well represented in the discussion on the myopathies by a paper of unusual merit from our colleague of this society, Dr. William G. Spiller. References were made to the impressive personnel of the congress in which were included such men of world-wide reputation as Obersteiner, von Monakow, Bianci, Dejerine, Babinski, Bruns, Liepmann, Rothmann, Nonne, Krause, von Eiselburg, Petren, Horsley, Bramwell, Head and many others. Dr. Mills especially reviewed the impressions made on him by four of the great symposiums or discussions, namely, that on the symptoms of cerebellar disease and their significance; that on motor aphasia, anarthria and apraxia; that on the nature of the condition termed parasyphilis; and the discussion at a joint meeting of the Sections on Neuropathology and Surgery on the treatment of tumors of the brain and the indications for operation. Many of the data and theories contributed in these discussions were summarized. Dr. Mills specially commended the merits of the work presented by Rothmann, Babinski, Tournay, Nonne, Head, Mott, Bruns, von Eiselburg and others. Among matters which strongly impressed him were the seriousness, industry and breadth of view of the representatives of neurology at the congress and the striking