

RESPIRATORY PARALYSIS

By G. L. Walton, M.D.

Dr. Walton also reported a case of respiratory paralysis in a young woman of 27, patient of Dr. Harrington, who operated for a movable kidney. The operation was uneventful. She had been under ether about an hour when after retching she suddenly stopped breathing. The pulse continued of good character and strength, and the color remained good so long as artificial respiration was kept up; when it was discontinued she became cyanosed. This occurred about noon. At the time Dr. Walton saw her there was complete flaccidity, the pupils were non-reactile, all reflexes were absent. There was no sign of consciousness. Artificial respiration was kept up till she died about ten in the evening.

This rare condition is described by Ross as paralysis of respiration, from a lesion limited to the respiratory center. Death immediately ensues, but the circulation may be kept up for a long time mechanically by artificial respiration.

Dr. Abbot: Dr. Walton's case of early arteriosclerosis calls to mind a case that Dr. Southard may perhaps recall that I saw several years ago at the Boston City Hospital. It was of a man about 35 or 36 years old who presented symptoms very suggestive of general paralysis of only a few months' duration. In fact I made the diagnosis of probable general paralysis to the family, though with some mental reservations. On autopsy there was found to be an almost pipe-stem-like sclerosis of the circle of Willis and if I remember correctly some of the cerebral vessels showed marked sclerosis, though not of the same degree of calcareous deposit.

SUBCONSCIOUS PHENOMENA AND ALLIED CONDITIONS

By Author V. Goss, M.D.

Of recent years much careful study has been given to subconscious phenomena and allied states, especially noteworthy being the studies of Dr. Prince of double or dissociated personalities.

We must all recognize that the subject is obscure and difficult of comprehension, and that well-authenticated, undisputed data are none too numerous. Three cases have fallen under Dr. Goss' observation,

Case 1: Condition allied to somnambulism. A medical student engaged in nursing falls asleep; awaking suddenly he finds all voluntary muscles temporarily paralyzed, consciousness being impaired. Condition passes off suddenly in a few seconds.

Case 2: Partial aphasia coming on suddenly, due to long-continued nervous strain. A young woman who had been under long-continued nervous strain falls unconscious at the funeral of her sister. She recovered consciousness in an hour or two, but had complete amnesia of her sister's death and burial for some ten days: her memory then suddenly returned.

Case 3: A case of double consciousness. A young woman subject to angina pectoris frequently presented the phenomena of double conscious-

ness, the abnormal condition always coming on suddenly at the height of a severe attack of angina, and passing off suddenly as soon as the pain was relieved.

Dr. Lane said that the condition described in Dr. Goss' first case has been termed the hypnagogic state and is allied to somnambulism. In the waking period the return of consciousness is delayed and we get a state of partial consciousness. Dr. Lane has known of a few instances.

He saw this summer a case of double personality; he was unable to get a history of initial mental shock or strain as we are told is common. A man, a mill worker, has been for years in the habit of wandering away from home and waking up suddenly in a distant town 10 to 100 miles from home with no knowledge of how he got there and no memory of any event since leaving home. By inquiry he has learned that he sometimes rides and at other times walks, usually both. He is usually tired and foot-sore. He has these "spells" as often as once a week. He can tell when one is "coming on" as he feels restless and wants to keep moving. He has never got into any difficulties when in these attacks and he attracts no attention. A friend who saw him in one noticed nothing out of the way. His wife, thinking these strange phenomena must be due to dissipation took their child and went to a distant state and left him to shift for himself. When getting ready to come to Boston for treatment he wandered away twice in three days. After reaching Boston and placing himself under care he had none for a month. Then he had two brief attacks, once going five miles and once about fifteen. He is an active intelligent man and a leader among his fellows.