

and diplopia, which he had after the operation, also disappeared, and, finally, one month and seven days after operative interference he was discharged well.—(*Hygica*, No. 10, 1891.) F. H. P.

PSYCHOLOGICAL.

THE EFFECTS OF SULFONAL UPON THE CIRCULATION.

The conclusions arrived at by Dr. Sgobbo Francisco, of Naples (*Annali di Neurologi*, Fas. II, 1891), are:

1. That sulfonal is a good hypnotic.

2. That given in doses of 3 grammes it exerts an influence upon the heart and blood vessels, reinforcing the systole and increasing the vascular tone. This action upon the blood vessels is not continuous, for after a certain time there is a dilatation, and a progressive loss of elasticity, beginning first in the vessels of the brain, then extending to the periphery. W. C. K.

Society Reports.

PHILADELPHIA NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Stated Meeting, December 28, 1891.

The Vice-President, DR. WHARTON SINKLER, in the Chair.

DR. S. WEIR MITCHELL read a paper entitled
A CASE OF ACROMEGALIA.—THE PATIENT EXHIBITED.

BY DR. H. A. HARE, M.D.

I have brought this patient before you as an interesting instance of that rather rare disease known as acromegalia; and while the condition has not progressed in all its details sufficiently to enable me to state positively that this is a typical case, our limited knowledge of the disease under consideration seems to me to point to this being an undoubted instance of the malady. It has been suggested to me by Dr. Stewart that the case is one of myxœdema, but I am unable to think that she presents in any respect evidences of this curious condition. In the first place she lacks the characteristic slowing of the speech, neither has she the slowing

of the mental processes or of the gait. Atrophy of the thyroid gland is an almost characteristic lesion of myxœdema; whereas in the case which we have before us the thyroid gland is very much increased in size. Neither is the facial expression of the woman characteristic of myxœdemia. There is, as you see, a general enlargement of the tissues of the face, and associated with the increase in the development of the soft tissues there is certainly an increase in the size of the bones practically all over the body. There are a number of bony enlargements in excess of the symmetrical development of the chest. Anteriorly, on the right side, near the sternum, you will notice that the second, third and fourth ribs are much increased in their length, and an examination further shows that the three lowest ribs on the left side are similarly increased in size. The tissues of the limbs, both upper and lower, are increased also, and the patient has, during the past two years, gained sixty-five pounds in weight, although as you see no one would at the present time consider her to be a stout woman. The curve in the spinal column and the rounding of the shoulders exactly resembles that which is seen in all the cases of acromegalia so far reported, which have been well developed, and the expression of the face so closely resembles the expression seen in the picture in Leite's recent thesis upon this subject as to cause the remark that the two patients look enough alike to be brother and sister, or even to be twins. Associated with the general symptoms there is complete loss of vision through atrophy of the optic nerve on the left side and during the last two or three weeks there has been marked diminution in the vision of the right side, which ophthalmoscopic examination proves to be due largely to what is probably an axial optic neuritis; there is also paralysis of the inferior oblique muscle on the left side.

Finally, in regard to the possibility of the case being one of myxœdema, let me say that she lacks practically every symptom of this disease except the increase in the subcutaneous tissues, and that she has not the supra-clavicular swelling which is generally found in the malady described so thoroughly by Dr. Ord.

Dr. G. E. DE SCHWEINITZ: Through the courtesy of Dr. H. A. Hare, and Dr. Hansell, I examined this case. It is unnecessary to repeat the result of the examination, which coincides in all practical particulars with the one reported by Dr. Hansell. I may, however, refer to one point that is interesting, namely, the very marked failure in the perception of green, and the fact that there is a faint, negative

scotoma occupying the centre of the field of vision, in which area this color ceases to be appreciated. It reminds one a little of the scotoma in toxic amblyopia, and suggests a line of inquiry. The whole appreciation of the color green, however, is so very deficient that it is difficult to determine the limits of this scotoma. In addition to this case I have examined one other case of supposed acromegalia, in which there was bilateral temporal hemianopsia, a lesion which has been seen in a number of cases of this affection, because there has been disease of the pituitary body, which from its anatomical situation would necessarily produce this defect in the field of vision. From the account of the way in which vision was lost in the blind eye of Dr. Hare's case, it seems as if it had begun as a hemianopsia, although the field of vision of the right eye does not show this character. In one case of suspected tumor of the pituitary body which I have observed, but which was not examined post-mortem, there was excessive sweating, especially of the hands and feet. A somewhat similar condition is present in the patient who is here to-night.

Dr. JOHN CHALMERS DACOSTA: Would the absence of any special evidence of mental involvement negative the presence of myxœdema? In the two cases of myxœdema that I have seen, the mental involvement was not coincident with the development of the disease. The mental condition in the case we investigated was one of gradually arising and progressive dementia. It was scarcely manifest until the myxœdema had existed for some time.

Dr. F. A. PACKARD: I am especially interested in this subject because this year I came across a case which I at first thought to be one of this disease. I, however, learned better, and had hoped to be able to show here an interesting example of the disease which has been called by Marie Osteo, arthropathe hypertrophiante pneumique. It has been claimed that this is the real disease from which many cases of so-called acromegalia suffer. Since the appearance of the paper by Marie in the *Révue de Médecine*, 1890, quite a long monograph has appeared in Germany, giving the results of the post-mortem examination in Friedreich's case of Hagner, where every bone in the body was found tremendously enlarged.

In Dr. Hare's cases there is absence of the large inferior maxillary, which is a prominent symptom in many of the reported cases. There appears, also, to be very little enlargement of the bones of the hands. The enlargement seems to be chiefly in the soft parts, much like that which occurs in myxœdema.