

ordinary movements of locomotion; he (Dr. Radcliffe), on the contrary, believed, and this no doubt was the common, as well as the correct opinion, that there was little or no inco-ordination in the former movements. In short, in the attempt to take away credit from M. Duchenne, and to merge locomotor ataxy in *tabes dorsalis* he (Dr. Radcliffe) ventured to think that a step backwards instead of forwards was made in pathological precision.

Dr. GREENHOW said that he thought one point of much importance had not been referred to—namely, that there was no real loss of muscular strength, at least in the first stages of ataxy. Patients walked in a staggering, unsteady manner indeed, but once started they could usually walk for a considerable distance in a straight line without fatigue, sometimes for many miles; the main difficulty being at first starting, or at changing their direction, as in turning round. In one of two cases at present under his care, the patient suffered from a very peculiar form of hyperæsthesia. He (the patient) could bear to have his legs firmly pressed, or even pinched, but a slight touch, such as that made by a woman's dress brushing past him in the street, caused great suffering, and made him stagger so as almost to fall down unless supported. The pupils in the same patient were permanently small and contracted without any material impairment of vision. On the other hand, the other patient was rather deaf. Both these patients had from time to time suffered from incontinence of urine, and also occasionally from difficult micturition, without the existence of any material obstruction, such as stricture or calculus. He (Dr. Greenhow) could entirely confirm what had been said respecting the value of nitrate of silver in ataxy, both his present patients having derived much benefit from its use. Their gait had become steadier, and the peculiar pains attendant on the disease both less frequent and much less severe.

Dr. ALTHAUS replied, supporting the opinions expressed in his paper, and maintaining the identity of uncomplicated ataxy with the *tabes* of Romberg.

#### DR. COPLAND'S DICTIONARY, DR. KENNION, AND THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—When I read in the pages of *THE LANCET* of the 2nd inst. Dr. Copland's opinion of the nature of the cattle plague, and suggestions for its treatment, I do not hesitate to admit that I felt exceedingly gratified that a gentleman of such known merits should have arrived not only at a similar opinion to that I had formed some time since, but also that the treatment I had suggested in September last in the columns of *The Times* was, with little alteration, recommended by him as the remedy most likely to prove successful. I leave it to you to imagine how much more satisfaction I must have felt to-day when I found that Dr. Kennion, "who lives close to one of the most infected districts, and whose thoughts and attention have been much directed to this pestilence," joins issue with Dr. Copland, and not only recommends the trial of the tincture of sesquichloride of iron, but gives us practical evidence of the success of the remedy as the basis of treatment, by giving the evidence of a distinguished veterinary surgeon, who states "that it has exceeded all his expectations, and that he considers it by much the most encouraging mode of treating this disease that he has met with or tried."

At the last meeting of the British Association, held at Birmingham in September last, I had the honour of reading a paper in the Physiological Department on the "Nature and Causes of the Cattle Plague," in which I embodied suggestions for its treatment, but these suggestions were excluded as not pertaining to Physiology. On my return home, however, I at once wrote to *The Times*, and, as concisely as possible, entered into details for treatment. I strongly advocated the administration of iron; but I said, to prove efficacious, it must be given combined with a mineral acid, small doses of sulphate of magnesia and nitrate of potash. Since that time I have sent prescriptions to many, and I have seen cattle treated with these remedies. The animals to which I allude (five in number) exhibited almost without an exception the symptoms of the rinderpest as published by order of the Privy Council, but in addition there was undoubtedly congestion of the lungs. They were at once put under treatment in warm stalls, and the tincture of the sesquichloride of iron in six-drachm doses, in conjunction with small doses of sulphate of magnesia and

nitrate of potash, given three times a day in warm gruel. The coats were well wetted with warm water, and then enveloped in cloths thoroughly saturated with turpentine, over which some good horse-rugs were placed. In every case recovery ensued.

In justice to myself, I shall feel obliged by your inserting this letter in your next impression, the more especially as I arrived at this view of treatment, not from the fact of iron being beneficial in erysipelas, congestion of the lungs (as I have proved), or any other disease, but because I believe a great principle is involved in the issue, and it was from working out the principle that I came to the conclusion that iron, especially in this form, and even arsenic in proper doses, are amongst the best remedies for the disease.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

RICHARD C. SHETTLÉ, M.D.

Cann, Shaftesbury, Dec. 16th, 1865.

#### POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Mr. Prowse's suggestion in your number of last week (p. 716) is a very good and sensible one, and one that should be at once acted on. Some weeks ago I wrote you, proposing that all interested should send a subscription to Mr. Griffin, and at the same time suggesting a mode of collecting the same. That, however, has not been acted upon. The only question is, who is to put himself to the trouble of writing to each individual officer for his subscription and aid? That this is the best course I have not the slightest doubt; but we can hardly expect Mr. Griffin to be able to do so, burdened as he already must be with a great amount of correspondence. If Mr. Prowse would be willing to take this particular work on his shoulders, no doubt it would work well. But, perhaps, his engagements would not allow his doing this; if so, might not my original suggestion be fallen back upon—namely, that one of our number in each district (more or less extensive) should be asked to collect from all willing to aid the cause?

Apologizing for again occupying your space,

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Dec. 26th, 1865.

J. H.

#### DR. WATERS'S PAPER ON PNEUMONIA.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I regret that I was unable to be present at the meeting of the Medical and Chirurgical Society on the 12th inst., when my paper on "the Morbid Anatomy and Early Physical Signs of Pneumonia" was read.

There is a mistake with reference to facts which one of the speakers on the occasion (Dr. Fuller) seems to have made, and which I think should be corrected. Dr. Fuller took exception to my view of the cause of the harsh respiration which I have observed as a sign of incipient pneumonia. According to the report in *THE LANCET*, he remarked that "in the cases cited by Dr. Waters dulness on percussion is stated to have existed coincidentally with the abnormal loudness of the respiration, and before the accession of crepitation." In the abstract published in your journal, drawn up from the paper itself, it is distinctly stated that in neither of the cases referred to was there any dulness on percussion until crepitation was established.

It would be out of place here to reply to the observations made in the discussion which followed the reading of the paper; my simple object is to correct an error of fact, the importance of which I am sure Dr. Fuller will be the first to perceive.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Liverpool, Dec. 27th, 1865.

A. T. H. WATERS, M.D.

DR. JAMES PATERSON, of Glasgow, has been presented with a piece of plate and a cheque for upwards of 200 guineas by a portion of his fellow-citizens. Dr. Paterson, it will be remembered, was an important witness against Dr. Pritchard in the late memorable trial. The following is the inscription upon the piece of plate:—"Presented to James Paterson, M.D., Fel. Fac. Phy. and Surg. Glasgow, with a purse of sovereigns, by a large number of subscribers, as a mark of respect for and sympathy with him in the difficult position in which he was placed in connexion with the important criminal trial which took place at Edinburgh on the 7th day of July, 1865."