

mental development was much retarded if not entirely arrested. Subsequently her bodily growth was slow. Gradually the morbid movement increased in extent; from a simple nod, it became so great that the face was not unfrequently struck against the floor. This was repeated several times during the twenty-four hours. Still later epileptiform fits were added, and towards the end of her second year she was hopelessly epileptic and idiotic. The child died at the age of twenty-six months; but unfortunately no *post-mortem* is recorded.—*New York Journal of Medicine*, November 1851.

Correspondence.

ABSORPTION OF THE MAMMÆ AND TESTES UNDER THE USE OF IODINE.

To the Editors of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,—In your number for January 21st is the following query from Mr. Gall, of Ripley:—"Have any instances been observed and noted of absorption of the mammæ or testes under the use of iodine?"

In answer to this I take leave to state, that I have seen numerous instances of what I consider the prolonged and excessive use of the preparations of iodine in constitutional syphilis, principally the iodides of potass and iron. The following are the cases which I recollect as most remarkable:—

A surgeon, aged 47, consulted me in the early part of this year for certain symptoms of an old venereal taint. He had taken, he informed me, ten grains of the iodide of potass twice or thrice a day, for ten years. There was no wasting of the testes. He had sarcocele, clearly venereal, with a small hydrocele on one side; the testis on the other was healthy, but there was hypertrophy of the tongue, which was tender, and covered with lobes or nodes, and fissured by deep cracks.

I have seen this condition of the tongue so frequently in persons who have taken the iodide of potass for long periods, that I must consider it a pure chronic glossitis, produced by the continued use of this salt.

A German gentleman, who had suffered from secondary syphilis for five years, and who had been treated by Ricord, Chelius, and others, was sent to me for my opinion as to the nature of the disease in his tongue. He had taken large quantities of iodide of potass for four years, "in fact (said he,) I have taken so much iodine that my perspiration turns all my linen brown." The tongue was tender, swollen, lobulated, and fissured by deep irregular cracks. The testes were of good size, and appeared perfectly healthy.

In a third case the patient had taken five grains of the iodide of potassium three times a day, for the greater part of three years.

When this patient consulted me he was emaciated and weak, and his appetite was totally gone. He at that time presented no symptoms of venereal taint, and attributed the whole of the indisposition under which he laboured to the prolonged use of the iodide. The testicles were healthy, and of full size.

A gentleman, who had suffered from a constitutional

venereal taint for thirteen years, whose disease had resisted the usual methods of treatment, or returned when they were discontinued, was sent to me from town, to try my method of treatment by "moist mercurial vapour." He had taken large quantities of the iodide of potass for long periods. The tongue presented the appearance already described; it was in places hard and lobulated, in others fissured by deep cracks. The left testis had almost entirely disappeared; it was reduced to the size of a pea. The right was of full size, and healthy. Virility was not impaired.

I have selected these four cases from amongst a mass of others, to furnish a reply to Mr. Gall's question; they are remarkable, from the large quantities of the iodide of potass which had been taken, and the length of time it had been continued. It is singular that three out of the four cases should present that peculiar condition of tongue, almost cancerous in its appearance, which I believe due to the use of the iodide. I never saw such a condition of tongue, however long a constitutional taint had been present, (and I have treated cases of twenty-nine years standing,) unless the iodide of potass had been taken for a long period. The fourth is the only case I have seen where absorption of the testis appeared directly due to the use of the above-named salt.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

LANGSTON PARKER,

Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, and Professor of Anatomy in Queen's College, &c., &c., &c.

20, Colmore Row, Birmingham;
January, 1852.

TREATMENT OF SCIATICA.

To the Editors of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,—Following out the suggestion of Dr. Radcliffe Hall in his admirable papers lately published in the *Journal*, that we should endeavour to concentrate the diffused experience of the Association upon any practical point in medicine, and thus reduce, as much as possible, facts into the form of laws, I offer to the notice of the Association the following proposition:—

SCIATICA, whether connected with rheumatism or not, and not dependant upon mechanical causes, as accumulation of fæces, tumours, &c., may be cured in fourteen days by rubbing along the affected nerve, from its origin downwards, half a drachm of veratria ointment (gr. v. to oz. ss.) every night at bed-time. The friction to be performed with a horse-hair glove until severe tingling is induced.

If each member of the Association will be kind enough (and the disease is just now unusually prevalent,) to test the truth or error of my proposition, and favour me with the result, I will tabulate and insert in the *Journal* the concentrated experience of the members.

Yours obediently,

C. R. BREE.

Stowmarket, Jan. 27, 1852.