

in an account given by him in the Archives of Medicine, New York, for October, 1879, and December, 1880, of the marvellous effects obtained by training the hand and eye of an idiot boy. The articles cited contain the enunciation of principles of the utmost importance in the training of normal as well as of defective children. The central idea underlying these principles is that the peripheral organs, the special senses, and the cutaneous and muscular systems must be carefully trained or educated at the same time that the more purely central functions are developed by ordinary teaching.

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## COMMUNICATIONS.

The following paper upon Popliteal Aneurism was read by Dr. Caroline V. Wiley-Anderson, of Philadelphia.

### POPLITEAL ANEURISM.

DR. CAROLINE V. WILEY-ANDERSON.

Mrs. S. T., colored, aged sixty-four years, was first seen by me March, 1880. Has been married twice—last husband living but not with her. Had twelve children by her first marriage, one child and eight miscarriages by the second. At fifty years of age fell down stairs and broke her left ankle, soon after a small “knot” appeared on the left thigh in the region of the popliteal space.

At fifty-one years of age was pregnant, and in the fifth month of her pregnancy aborted from taking a long ride. At fifty-two the menopause began with little or no perceptible disturbance. At fifty-three felt the “knot” slip, and give way while sitting on a chair, which to her was the beginning of subsequent trouble. Found her suffering with dyspnoea, and a general dropsical condition when first called. The heart was weak and labored, and the nervous system much impaired. Gave a tonic containing Sulphate of Strych., Tartrate of Iron and Potass., Tinct. of Digital., and Tinct. of Gent. Also directed that the Tinct. of Assafet. be administered as needed, being at least a safe antispasmodic and desirable while ascertaining the cause of so much disturbance. Rest and liquid diet were strictly enjoined. The following day she was much more comfortable, still very weak. The third day the pulse though weak, was regular, and in-

compressible. During the night the heart thumped and shook her in bed as she expressed it. She was feverish and restless through the night. The urine voided was thick and white. There was considerable bronchial and gastric irritation as evidenced by the copious amount of mucus expectorated. The stomach and bowels were full and distended. Gave saline Cathartic and Sulphate of Cinchona with Capsicum and bitter tonics to replace the mixture containing Digital, &c., feeling assured though the case at first suggested symptoms of fatty degeneration of the heart, there was something more to be found and Digitalis was contra-indicated. Was much relieved after the administration of the salts, though there was still some fullness of the stomach and bowels. Phosphate of Sodium and Nitro-Mur. Acid (dilute), with bitter tonics were strongly indicated, meanwhile giving Spt. Juniperi to increase the bulk of the urine, and at the same time strengthen the heart. The dyspnœa was greatly relieved, but the expectoration continued copiously, and the pulse remained weak and rapid for some time. A little meat was now allowed as craved, but no vegetables. In about four days the quantity of mucus passed from the mouth diminished, but an excessive amount was passed from the bowels. After the subsidence of these symptoms the patient called my attention to a "lump" as she termed it, on the lower part of the left thigh, in the vicinity of the popliteal space. From the fact that it was sometimes larger and sometimes smaller from her own observation, and that I found a soft and pulsating body, and what seemed to me a thrill, though not very distinct, I watched it closely, learning that she had had similar attacks of seeming heart failure before I had attended her, continuing to treat the symptoms, convinced that here was the source of the trouble. I concluded that she might take decidedly more depressing mixtures than she had been taking while endeavoring to support the strength with a reasonable admixture of Iron, &c. To this end Bicarb. of Potass. Bromide of Potass., Tart. of Iron and Potass., with Tinct. Nucis Vom, Tinct. of Gent., &c., were administered for some time, other symptoms being met as presented. So relieved was the tension, and so marked the change, that although unable to cause complete disappearance of the tumor by temporary pressure, there was sufficient decrease in size, and the bruit quite marked enough, to warrant the diagnosis of an aneurism. I then decided to have some one else see it with me, which Dr. McAllister did, and she too found an unmistakable bruit. The bronchial and gastric trouble was now under control, so also the dyspnœa. The urine was being passed freely, while the solids were being held in suspension by the careful use of the Spt. Junip., and occasional doses of Ol. Terebinth. From that time until the present, there has been but

slight variation in the condition. Exceedingly active, she has done quantities of laundry work, while the tumor has steadily increased so that from the size of an egg when first seen, it now measures thirty-three and a half inches in circumference, including the thigh, and thirty inches in length. It is a Diffused False Aneurism, in that the blood is no doubt still confined in a sac of condensed areolar tissue, formed by the structures into which the blood has been effused, containing also coagulium and inflammatory exudation. Nature has done her work well, although a faint bruit is still heard, the deposit of the colorless lamina of fibrin, the active clot of Broca, has steadily been made no doubt, thus preventing too rapid increase of the tumor as well as lessening the capacity of the sac, and diminishing the pressure on the surrounding parts, the distending force of the aneurism, we are told, being proportional to the area of the sac, as well as to the force with which the blood is driven into it. The blood pressure has been kept low by her mode of life, and intelligent care of herself. Nothing could have induced her to submit to an operation, especially since there has been this tendency to spontaneous cure. The advice of Erichsen is,—“When the aneurism is undergoing spontaneous cure no surgical interference should be employed, but the case left to nature,” which advice has been followed.

The following paper, written by Dr. Rebecca C. Hallowell, of Atlantic City, upon the Prevention of Prostitution, was read by Dr. Louise Schneider-Blum, of Philadelphia, in the absence of Dr. Hallowell.

#### THE PREVENTION OF PROSTITUTION.

DR. REBECCA C. HALLOWELL.

Though it cannot be denied that rapid strides are being made in the study of Preventive Medicine, and various diseases long misunderstood, are being successfully overcome, yet nowhere do we find any effectual method to combat the well known causes of a disease which Dr. Gihon, the zealous sanitarian, in a vehement address before the American Public Health Association, pronounced “the most prolific mother of evil of them all, that sends forth her brood of whelps to be the cause of more bodily and mental misery than all other shapes of human error combined.”

Though medical literature abounds in valuable works on syphilis and its allied affections, and exhaustive teachings on curative measures, con-