

3. American Retrospect (continued).

The Chicago Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease. Vol. I.,
October, 1874.

October, 1874. No. 4. *Pathology of the Vaso-Motor Nervous System* (Lecture iv), by J. S. Jewell, M.D. *Cases of Hysteria, Neurasthenia, Spinal Irritation and Allied Affections*, with remarks by George M. Beard, M.D. *A Case of Hydrophobia in a Child*, by Addison H. Foster, M.D. *On the Action of Certain Medicines on the Cerebral Blood Vessels*, by Dr. Max Schneller. *On the Dilating Vaso-Motor Nerves*, by Prof. Fr. Goltz. *Notes on the Nitrite of Amyl*, by Dr. J. Crichton Browne. REVIEWS, &c., &c., &c.

Vol. II. 1875.

January, 1875. No. 1. *Pathology of Epilepsy*, by J. S. Jewell, M.D. *Aphasia*, by A. D. Rockwell, M.D. *Researches on the Functions of the Brain*, by M. M. Carville and Duret. *Illustrations of Heredity: Influence of both Parents on the Children*, by Prof. Ransom Dexter. *The Management of Delirium*, by J. Milner Fothergill, M.D. *The Automatism of Memory and Association in Pathological Somnambulism*, by Dr. E. Mesnet. REVIEWS, &c., &c., &c.

April, 1875. No. 2. *The Relations of the Nervous System to the Uterus*, by J. S. Jewell, M.D. *Nitrite of Amyl in Epilepsy: Experimental and Clinical Observations*, by J. H. McBride, M.D. *The Movements and Innervation of the Iris*, by Dr. H. Gradle. *Angina Pectoris*, by J. H. Hollister, M.D. REVIEWS, &c., &c., &c.

July, 1875. No. 3. *The Movements and Innervation of the Iris*, by Dr. H. Gradle. *Some Practical Observations on Exophthalmic Goitre and its Treatment*, by Roberts Bartholow, M.D. *The Atheromatous Process in its Relations to the Brain*, by Karl Hertzka. *On the Hypodermic Administration of Ergotine in Certain Cases of Acute Mania*, by Dr. A. H. Von Ansel. REVIEWS, &c., &c., &c.

October, 1875. No. 4. *On the Existence of Definite Motor Centres in the Cerebral Cortex*, by J. S. Jewell, M.D. *Pathology of Drunkenness: Is it a Disease or a Moral Delinquency?* by N. S. Davis, M.D. *Two Cases of Exophthalmic Goitre associated with Chronic Urticaria*, by D. Duncan Bulkley, M.D. *On Chronic Subacute Neuritis*, by H. M. Bannister, M.D. *Paralysis of the Vagus*, by Franz Riegel. REVIEWS, &c., &c., &c.

It will not be necessary for us to notice the majority of the papers given in the tables of contents, as they are chiefly systematic lectures, translations and reprints, but there can be no doubt that the "Chicago Journal" must be most interesting to its readers as each number contains a "Periscope," giving excellent and full abstracts of papers on

—1st, the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system; 2nd, the pathology of the nervous system and mind, and pathological anatomy; and 3rd, therapeutics of the nervous system and mind.

Cases of Hysteria, Neurasthenia, &c.

Dr. Beard is engaged in preparing a work in which he hopes to *unify* those diseases of the nervous system usually known as functional, and "to show that they have in general a common pathology, a common history, a common group of symptoms, and a common therapeutics." He "shall seek to show that these diseases, or symptoms of disease—or, as they might, perhaps, with better justice be called, results of disease—are expressions of a common nervous diathesis; that they are liable to run into each other, and to act vicariously to each other; that they are a part of the price we pay for civilization, being confined mostly to the enlightened peoples of modern times." Dr. Beard treats all these affections on the same general principles, and depends mainly on general *faradisation* and *central galvanisation*. Internally, he uses preparations of phosphorus and cod-liver oil, and sometimes arsenic. He uses largely cod-liver oil emulsion, and has seen good results from the oxide and phosphide of zinc and chemical food. Externally he employs ice and hot-water bags to the spine and cautious counter-irritation.

Illustrations of Heredity.

Whatever value may be attached to the cases detailed by Dr. Dexter, his general propositions are reasonable enough.

1. The natural healthy constitutions of father, mother, and their ancestors, are blended in their offspring.

2. The offspring of healthy individuals are likely to inherit the cast of the more strongly constituted parent, or the particular organs most highly developed as they may appear in either of them.

3. In the acquired constitutional change, whether of disease or development, the impression may be so strongly made that the tendency to reproduce it again is stronger than to resume the normal condition.

4. Strong mental impressions of either parent, though of comparatively short duration, may prove to be dominant in the offspring.

5. There may be a duality in some instances, of mental impressions in the offspring on the same subject, having resulted from conflicting influences in the minds of the parents.

6. That parties whose ancestors have been drunkards, and who are constitutionally affected from that influence, show it in the lineaments of their bodies, as well as in their mental peculiarities.

Two cases are given in illustration of the fifth proposition. The second case is so amusing that we reproduce it verbatim, leaving the reader to judge as to the value of such a history.

N. J., the subject of the following peculiar history, has attained the

age of about forty; both he and his ancestors were healthy, industrious and intelligent.

Although alcoholic beverages were used quite sparingly by his parents, the mother when pregnant was in the habit of using them several times daily until her confinement. But just before becoming pregnant with the subject of these remarks, her eighth child, a strong temperance movement was instituted in the section of country in which his parents resided. His father being a minister, was naturally expected to take the lead in the good cause. Both parents taking an active part in the endeavour to suppress the use of alcoholic liquors, of course forbade the accustomed use of the beverage even in the delicate situation in which she had now become. During the latter months of gestation, a great conflict ensued between the appetite for the beverage to which she had been accustomed, and the moral restraint to which she had subjected herself. The appetite growing stronger as gestation advanced, was a source of great discomfort; but the moral restraint and the power of the will held the entire mastery.

The effect upon the offspring was specific. The boy when quite small was often the object of observation. Quite to the surprise of his parents he manifested the same peculiarities of appetite and sentiment that possessed his mother during her stage of gestation with him. If there was any spirituous liquor anywhere near him, he would be frantic to get a drink of it, but strange as it may seem, would be glad when it was placed beyond his reach.

This gentleman reports, and his veracity is perfectly reliable, that from his earliest recollection he has always had a strong appetite and desire for alcoholic liquors, but is cognizant of the accompanying automatic action of the will, which enables him to abstain from them. He says that he has a conscious sensation within his own mind, that the desire for these liquors is coupled in his mind's action with the will-power that enables him to abstain from their use. In short, he has a duality in the operations of his mind transmitted from his mother, and exactly as she had them.

Nitrite of Amyl in Epilepsy.

As the result of clinical and experimental observation, Dr. N. Bride concludes that those cases of epilepsy in which there is a distinct aura are the cases in which the nitrite of amyl promises most good.
