

I will now show you a case which is interesting from another point of view. This is the case of a lady who suffered from Sciatica which was not constant, but which came on at intervals, over a period of some months. Her general health, however, was good, except that she had very bad teeth and Pyorrhœa of the gums. Last summer, however, she developed very distinct Rheumatic Arthritis in the small bones of her hands. And I will show you an X-Ray of her hands in which you will see that the joints were greatly swollen and deformed. Her hip joint, however, showed by the X-Ray that it was practically normal.

Now this case was treated by autogenous vaccines with very great and prompt success. The Vaccine was prepared from the pus taken from the gums, and the interesting point is this, that her Sciatica left her very soon after the vaccine treatment was commenced, and so far has not returned, she having been free from pain for over six months. This patient is still getting the vaccines at long intervals, and they will soon be discontinued unless her symptoms recur, which I do not think will happen.

Now why did the vaccine treatment cure also the Sciatica as well as the arthritis in her hands? I believe that the reason in this case is that she was beginning to get Arthritis in the hip joint, but that the disease had not progressed enough for the X-Ray to show any abnormal features. If this is the case, it is a case which is a striking example of Sciatica, being due, as Dr. Bruce describes, to Arthritis, or at any rate to inflammation of the hip joint.

We must now briefly endeavour to describe the treatment of Sciatica, or what is more correct, perhaps to say the treatment of Pains in the Sciatic nerves.

We will take it for granted that the treatment for chronic cases due to Arthritis of the hips is the treatment which we have described. In *acute* and *early* cases, however, I think the treatment in the main is rest. This rest, if the patient is in great pain, should be absolute. The patient should be kept in bed, if necessary the leg should be supported on a long splint, and if the pain is very severe, the very best treatment, if used cautiously, is the injection over or into the nerve of a 6th of a grain of morphia, combined with a little ($\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 gr.) cocaine or eucaine if necessary.

If, however, there is a fear of the patient craving for the morphia again and so eventually beginning the morphia habit, I myself use in these cases the injection of a substance which can be obtained from Allen & Hanbury's, called Quinine-Urea-Hydrochloride. If this can be

injected into the nerve, or even very close to it, it will give great relief certainly for some hours or even days, during which time the very acute symptoms will most probably have subsided.

While the patient is undergoing this necessary rest, and if we can feel confident that such patient is a subject to Gout, of course an anti-gout line of medicinal treatment should be given. In this case Colchicum, Aspirin, Iodide of Potassium, and alkaline mixtures may be used with advantage. I have personally found that Piperazine is the most valuable drug to use, and this can be given freely in the form of effervescing fluid in syphons, like ordinary soda water.

If, however, there is a history of previous rheumatic trouble, or if we can feel sure that the hip is the seat of the disease, the more recent treatments for this complaint can be given, such as vaccines, especially if a source of infection can be found, such as Pyorrhœa of the gums; or Parke, Davis & Co.'s Rheumatic Phylacogens, which are modified Vaccines of mixed infections. These latter are rapidly being used with success in all cases of rheumatic troubles, and I have used them with a great deal of success myself in those cases which I have tried to describe where the real cause of the Sciatic pain lay in the muscles around the nerve.

(To be continued.)

PRIZES AT SAN FRANCISCO.

We have already announced that Miss J. A. Delano, the Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps of the United States, has offered two Prizes to be competed for by members of the National Associations of Nurses which form the International Council of Nurses. The prizes of £20 and £10 will be awarded for the best inventions by nurses sent to the Nursing Exhibition in connection with the International Nursing Congress at San Francisco in June, 1915. We very much hope that British nurses who are members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, will compete for these Prizes and prove the vitality of their inventive genius.

WELCOME HELP.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses gratefully acknowledges the following donations:—From Miss Rundle, 5s.; from Miss A. E. Schuller, 5s.; Miss Warriner, R.N.S., 5s.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)