
This is a repetition and continuation of a former investigation by Mr. Swain. His object is to try the operation of mercury with the sympathetic nerve, using experiment and post-mortem examination as the tests of tending the truth of his hypothesis. The following passages give the origin of the inquiry:

"To consider the effects of various preparations of mercury, it appeared that even if they were absorbed, and could be dissolved, or produce their effect by contact with living parts, they affect the nervous system. This opinion was strengthened, in the first instance, by considering the appearance presented in dissecting the sympathetic nerve of a person who had been under the influence of mercury; for both sides of the face were much swollen, the palmar and abdominal glands were much enlarged; the teeth were discolored, and there was a separation of the gums and branches of the sympathetic nerve were found larger than in any other cases; there was also an increased size of the parotid glands. The other nerves were not enlarged."

In the first two experiments, the mercury preparation was introduced into the stomach of dogs; in five other experiments, the mineral was introduced into the jugular vein; and in three experiments, mercurial injection was performed. In every case, the animals died from the influence of the poison, and according to the observation of Mr. Swain, the ganglia of the sympathetic nerve were uniformly found much injected, and more or less inflamed. Mr. Swain deduces all the phenomena following the therapeutic administration of mercury, such as the increased action of the heart, the increased secretion, etc., are due to the influence it exercises upon the ganglionic system.

Mr. Swain thought it desirable to ascertain whether arsenic also affected the nerves, and details two experiments made with this object. In one, the poison was introduced into the jugular vein of a dog; in the other, it was applied to a wound. In the post-mortem observations in both cases, changes described by Mr. Swain as alarming, had occurred. In the first experiment, the sympathetic nerve had increased in size, and in the second, the ganglia of the sympathetic nerve were much injected.

These are important subjects. To determine them correctly, we must first experiment, and details two experiments made with this object. In one, the poison was introduced into the jugular vein of a dog; in the other, it was applied to a wound. In the post-mortem observations in both cases, changes described by Mr. Swain as alarming, had occurred.

Mr. Swain supposed, that the effects of mercury were more pronounced than those of arsenic, and that in the first experiment, the walls of the subcutaneous vessels had been dilated, and were not dilated in the second experiment. In the second experiment, the walls of the subcutaneous vessels were not dilated, and were not dilated in the first experiment.

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SUNDAY, February 20, 1847.—Dr. Sayer, President.

In the absence of Mr. Michael, the President called the attention of the President to the subject of the regulation of the Board of health.

Mr. Sayer said some remarks on the subject of the Board of health. He mentioned the importance of the subject and the necessity for a proper system of regulation. He pointed out the need for a more systematic approach to the control of public health, especially in the context of preventing the spread of disease. He referred to the need for better sanitation and hygiene practices.