

V.—A CASE OF INFLUENZA AND APHASIA.

By THOS. DOBSON POOLE, M.B. Edin.

WHILE taking charge of the practice of Dr Kebbell, the following case, which may not be devoid of interest, came under my notice.

Mrs W., age 27, lives in a small low-lying village. Family history good; her mother and sisters are healthy. Her father died of dropsy apparently of a hepatic nature. She has had usual diseases of childhood and has had five children. About three weeks prior to present illness I attended her at her confinement, which was normal—except, perhaps, that I was obliged to rupture the membranes. Two days after, temperature was 100° , which I attributed to the breasts. This soon subsided, and in eight days she was up and well.

On April 11th she was cooking in a small room without a fire, while a current of cold air was playing on the left side of her face. Soon after her dinner she was seized suddenly with shivering, giddiness, and violent frontal headache. Her friends asked her how she was, and she said, "I don't know, I feel queer," and pointed to her head. They gave her brandy and put her to bed, and soon after noticed that she had lost the power of speech, and fancied that she was suffering from a stroke. In the evening they rubbed oil over the left side of the face and temple, which they thought was swollen. The following morning I saw her; found her in bed; face pale, but her lips were not so pale in comparison. When asked how she was, she pointed to her head. When I spoke she seemed confused, and appeared to be unable to understand a question unless it was repeated. She would make an effort to speak, and after fixing her eyes, would say, after the lapse of a moment or two, "Yes," which sounded as if it had a mark of interrogation after it. The word "yes" was about all she could say. Temp. $100^{\circ} \cdot 2$. Pulse quickened and weak. A saline mixture and some quinine powders were administered. Took the yolk of an egg with a little brandy several times a day.

Next day I saw her, and she seemed to understand all that was going on. Could say the word "better." Examination fatigued her. Temperature 100° , and she complained of headache (frontal) by pointing to the head. Next day condition improved; more composed. Could say the words "yes," "no," and "better." Temp. 99° . Two days after (16th) I asked her how old she was, when her sister, who was in the room, said "twenty-seven," and then the patient said, "Yes, twenty-seven." When asked where her head ached, she pointed to the left temple and said "There." She answered better when two or three questions were asked at the same time. I asked her to read, but she shook her head, smiled, and said, "I know it." It appeared that she understood the meaning of printed words but could not read aloud. She cannot write. When asked how many children she had, she said "Four," and

pointed to the one in the bed, as if to say, "Four and this one." Can name all her children except one, to whom she persists in giving a wrong name. Could not name her sisters or her nurse. Could say reflexly such expressions as "Go away," "No, you don't," etc. Temperature normal, as are the rest of the systems. I was able only to watch the case so far.

In a letter dated May 9th, Dr Kebbell kindly wrote to me:—"Mrs W. is improving, is downstairs; can now call all her children and husband by name. Last Saturday she read from the newspaper to me the prices of eggs and butter. She complains still of headache."

I may mention that influenza in its various type was prevailing in the district, and that a woman nursing Mrs W. was suddenly seized with epigastric pain, vomiting, bloody diarrhœa, pains in back and limbs, and headache, and who recovered under treatment in three days.

The case illustrates that there are several centres connected with the mechanism of speech. What was the tangible condition of the speech centres is difficult to say. The face was pale, but it can hardly be inferred from this that there was anæmia of the centres.

It was a remarkable fact that the patient could not say the names of her sisters and nurse, but was able to say the names of her children (except one). It would appear that in some aphasic conditions, when the power of saying names or nouns was returning, patients are able to speak those names which they have learnt most recently.

VI.—NOTES ON HEART DISEASE IN PREGNANCY AND LABOUR.

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THE subject of heart disease complicating pregnancy has lately on more than one occasion occupied the attention of our Society. In October 1887 Dr Berry Hart read a paper on mitral stenosis as a complication, giving at the same time the reports of two cases which had been under my own care; while on the same date Dr Ballantyne fully recorded another similar case. Three other cases were recorded by Dr Berry Hart in May 1889, and one by Dr Fraser Wright in last July. The subject is of such importance that I need hardly apologise for relating at some length the following case, which was treated in the Edinburgh Maternity Hospital during the time that I was Resident Physician. The case, which was under the care of Dr Halliday Croom, to whose kindness I am indebted for permission to lay these notes before you, was one of pregnancy complicated by aortic stenosis and incompetence, together with mitral stenosis and incompetence.