

# THE POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

VOL. V.

MAY, 1930.

No. 56.

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE TREATMENT OF GENERAL PARALYSIS BY MALARIA ... ..	129
By THOMAS TENNENT, M.B.Glas.	
THE RÔLE OF HYDROLOGY IN MEDICAL PRACTICE ... ..	137
By MATTHEW B. RAY, D.S.O., M.D.EDIN.	
POST-GRADUATE NEWS ... ..	142
NOTICE ... ..	145
FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—	
SPECIAL COURSES ... ..	iii

## THE TREATMENT OF GENERAL PARALYSIS BY MALARIA.

By THOMAS TENNENT,

M.B.GLAS.

*Assistant Medical Officer, Maudsley Hospital.*

It has long been regarded that the outlook in general paralysis is most unfavourable, and that it is one of the most fatal diseases affecting the human race. Until recently all efforts to treat this condition proved worthless, and a fatal termination within a few years was the inevitable outcome. Remissions throughout the course of the illness were recognized, but any claim of recovery aroused, in the minds of most, grave doubts as to the diagnosis. Fortunately this state of affairs has changed and remissions may now be induced by prompt and appropriate treatment.

The first clinical account of a case of

general paralysis was recorded in 1798 by Haslam, who was then Apothecary of Bethlem Hospital. It was not, however, until 1822 that the condition was recognized, by a French psychiatrist named Bayle, as a disease entirely based upon a known pathology. His description of the pathological changes and of the clinical symptoms holds good in its essentials to-day.

From this time until the discovery of the true nature of general paralysis many factors were elaborated to account for its ætiology, and equally numerous and varied were the remedies suggested. The latter included such diverse methods as venesection, cautery to the head and spine, baths of varying temperature, purgatives and electricity. Iron, potassium bromide, quinine, silver nitrate and digitalis were the more prominent drugs advocated.

These methods of treatment held prominence at various stages and, until a better understanding of the ætiology was obtained, little headway from the therapeutic angle