AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
Hysteria.

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BY
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To
Professor J. M. Watten M.P.
This Thesis
is
Most respectfully dedicated
by
The Author.
Hysteria

Of all the diseases which fill the catalogue, there are none more remarkable for the frequency of their occurrence than this. It is also an interesting disease. Not on account of its fatality, nor on account of its prevalence and the variety of its symptoms, but on account of the multitude of diseases which are apt to it.

Among the common people, this disease is known generally by the name given above, though they generally call it the Hysteries.

This disease, like most others, has its peculiar symptoms. Though there are a great many symptoms developed during the course of the disease, which if taken and dissected accurately would lead us to believe that the patient was suffering from a complication of diseases.

The symptoms which are of most frequent occurrence are the gloom, hyphoria, and the clamor...
Hysterics, The former of these symptoms has been compared by the patient to the sensation of a fall or some solid body, felt on some part of the abdomen which gradually ascends, and become fixed in the throat, and gives rise to a sensation of choking, followed by the Chief Characteristics of the disease - The other of these symptoms is which the name of Aceou's Hysterics has been given to a kind of psychogenic spasm generally felt above the eye - These symptoms are of most frequent occurrence, yet others are others which cannot be felt described by the patient or any one else, and which are therefore termed under the general name, of anxiety sensations. These may not always be present and there the practitioner has nothing to indicate the nature of the disease except the consultation, which note of itself lead to nothing spe-
Cific from the simple fact that this condition or one very similar to it occurs in other diseases.

Independent of the condition, this disease is characterized by disregulated functional disorders. The whole system of symptoms of the disease may be described in a description of the paroxysm. This description as given by most authors includes all the symptoms of the disease. Paroxysms arise from functional arrangement, or, in agreed description, in the milder cases these sensations of the bladder, dysuria, is pallid, by interlude of keeping or of laughter which are of short duration. But in the more violent forms of the disease, the patient is attacked suddenly. The sufferer spends great mental and bodily agitation. Oppression of the chest.
difficulty of breathing. The bosom can sometimes be distinctly contracted. She loses the ordinary expression of countenance which as well as a sudden start. She falls of her standing, throws her hands about confusion. Attempts to bite herself, or toss about her. Twists her body into all manner of violent contortions. The jaws work with a sort of grinding motion. The heart palpitates. Sometimes there is an apparent heart of cannibalism. These phenomena gradually subside and the patient returns to her natural state, and then the paroxysm may end, to recur again with the same phenomena in a short time. Or the patient may be free from these for a considerable length of time.

The paroxysm may range over periods of duration and intensity. It may range from 15 minutes to several hours with occasional intervals.
Sometimes, instead of the violent paroxysm there is only a feeling of delirium or pictures distempers amounting to a Convulsive Paroxysm. General Paroxysms of these Paroxysms have been described by authors. Some times the patient lies motionless and listless by onlookers, incapable of being roused by the louder voice. The pulse at the wrist is scarcely perceptible, the respirations scarce perceptible, the extremities are cold. The general appearance of the patient tends to lead to the belief that he was dead, but the expression of the face is not that of a dead person. It is said that preparatory to death some of the spiral processes of Osier assure the patient from her death-like state.

Such as the Hysteria Convulsion though in perfectly described.
The functions of the organs contained on
The abdomen and thorax are liable to a certain degree to become deranged during the progress of this disease, giving rise to many symptoms which have often been mistaken for local disease of the organs.

Respiration is sometimes for a time cut off by spasmatic closure of the glottis, giving rise to imperfect circulation.

Palpable diseases of the organs of the chest are sometimes simulated by this "state." The symptoms arising from the spasmatic closure of the glottis, resulting from irritation, will only give way on the approach of asphyxia... This symptom is sometimes so modified as to be mistaken for symptoms arising from the presence of foreign bodies in the lumen of the trachea.

A case is reported in which, tracheotomy had been performed for the relief of...
A patient, labouring under these symptoms, the circulation is seriously deranged, giving rise to symptoms almost similar to those resulting from hypertrophy of the heart. Palpitation, with various modifications of the pulse, is frequently present.

The situations of the kidneys and liver are liable to be soon deranged. They may be deficient or exsudate. That of the kidneys is more liable to this derangement than the other. Sometimes being so capricious as to resemble diabetes at other times to modified, accompanied with spurious symptoms, as to give rise to the suspicions of the existence of calculi. The suppression of the urine may be voluntary, frequently the patient loses the power of contractions of the bladder. On a partial palsy of the neck of the bladder, this may nor continue for a great.
length of time but during its progress it may give rise to very disturbing sensations. Then such cases do occur, to which it is said protects itself by viscous secretion. Nutrition, seldom suffer. This subject is considered by most authors as one of the most striking characteristics of the disease. When it does suffer it is from an insufficient supply of fluid, resulting from an inability, or rather a fancied inability to swallow. This condition may however occur after the patient has been for a long time suffering from the disease. Then we are told that there is reason to suspect the existence of some organic disease.

Disarrangement of the reproductive system may arise without any perceptible anatomical...
Some authors contend that they have found some lesion of the organs or its appendages during this disease. But I don't think there is any more than there is in any other which in the chief majority of cases are igneous. Among the many diseases which are simulated by hysteria are various nervous disorders among which is Neuralgia. Though these are genuine an increased sensibility in the whole system. This may be located in the patient either in the face, head, neck or back. But their disease may all be found to differ from the fact that they are of so short duration. And prove a fixed place. That no true disease of any kind can have a place in the system at the same time.

The cause of hysteria has long been a point of contention among the great lights of medicine. One party contending that
The disease was entirely owing to some derangement in the reproductive system of the female. While another party contended that this disease so complicated in its nature could have its origin nowhere else but in the nervous system. Some of the older writers perpetuated among the best regarded the uterus as an animal and attributed the phenomena of Hysteric as the gland or organ of this animal or the head liver and brain. Galen suspected this notion but agreed in blaming the organ the seat of the disease. It has also been attributed to indigestion and chronic inflammation of the stomach, imperfectly concerted head, affecting the brain, a morbid condition of the spinal cord.

A morbid condition of the nervous system generally, more recent philosophers set down the spinal cord as the seat of the disease, and to sustain their position, using Gerard
Substances on which air issues of the springs and gave rise to phenomena similar to that of Asphodelia.

I don't believe that a disease is complicated in its symptoms affecting the function of animal life to variously, and be attributed to the arrangement of any one set of nerves. But in order for its productions with the various phenomena attendant upon it, the whole new organ system must be some disturbed. And the organs must supplied with nervous force and the nerve in which the disease during its course is more apt to develop itself, in the form of some specific inflammation. And that of the meridian action resulting from the meridian condition of the nervous system we do not recognize any specific disease, but disease of the whole nervous system.

As in other words, I do not regard the various
Phenomena manifested during the disease, whether it be in the glands or tissues, as a disturbed condition of the said structure out of the nerves which supply the organ. Nerves power being one of the reproductors every organ for the proper performance of its function. It follows that a derangement or failure on the part of the nerves would lead to the inactivity of or a derangement of the functions of the organ. In the secretion system, this derangement may consist in a change of quality and quantity as seen in the kidney. In the skin the derangement consists neither in the deranged movement of the secretion, nor in the quantity of matter eliminated, but in the sensibility. In the large majority of cases, the skin's sensibility is increased.

Pyrexia is therefore a disease having its origin in a deranged state of the nerves.
Systems, or neurotic excitability of the nervous systems. The causes of this disease may be said to be both pre-determining and of acting upon. Anything that prevents the nervous systems from gaining its proper development, or of acting as a depressing agent, either to the lungs or of nervous systems, will act as a predisposing cause to this disease.

This disease is becoming quite fashionable among a certain class of individuals known in society as the upper tier, and among the female partners of these who are by nature inclined to an inactive life.

It has been attempted by several authors to point out the many evils arising from the manner in which females of the present day are educated. Also the evil effects arising from the manner in which the higher classes in society spend their time, excluded from the
Sight almost altogether. - Sentimental reading has been put down as a preternatural cure by some authors. - Sedentary life.

Among the May diatheses contracted by the causes capable of producing a sedation of the powers of animals, we may say that leprous is the most fatal and agyria the most frequent.

Stimulating diet long continued has the power of lessening the tone of the nervous system and thereby acting as a predisposing cause. This disease may also be transmitted by inheritance. "Parents of the hypoglycic temperament are apt to transmit the disease to their offspring," or a disposition to the disease, which per disposition is strengthened by the subsequent mode of life.

In women who are suffering from this
pre-disposition. Sometimes the slightest
shock is capable of bringing on the fit.-
The most powerful of the exciting causes
are the various emotions of the mind,-
disappointed affection.

The diagnosis of Hysteria is in most
cases not very difficult. The disease
for which it is most likely to be taken is
Epilepsy: and the Convulsions sometimes attend
undertake the quiescent state.

In severe cases it may be necessary to inquire
into the former habits of the patient, in order
to enable us to make out our diagnosis.
Hysterical fits are never so severe as the
Epileptic; there is seldom loss of strength at
the mouth in Hystcrics, the face generally
becomes a Calm expression. The opposite
condition is observed in Epilepsy. The
fit generally occurs at once.
After a short, indescribable failure, accompanied by silent contractions of the muscles, nothing at the mouth. The features become black with convulsions.

In the more mild form of the epileptic fits, when there is no quivering at the mouth, as a sense of the face, where the symptoms are nearly the same as those of Hysteria. It would be necessary to enquire into the previous habits of the patient. If she is subject to these attacks we may put it down as a case of Hysteria & treat it accordingly. But if this be the first & is followed by another more severe with well marked symptoms of epilepsy, we may consider our patient in a dangerous situation.

The epileptic fits generally in cease in scribing with each returning paroxysm, while in Hysteria the paroxysms are generally the same.
Treatment

In speaking of the treatment of Hypo-

tensia, most authors recommend different

treatment for what they call different forms

of the disease, and each author has

some specifics for each one of the vari-

ous symptoms which spring up during

the progress of the disease.

I consider that each one of these symp-

toms arise from the same source, and

whether will relieve one will relieve

all of them. Yet it may be necessary

for our patients to resort to relieving

some of the attendant symptoms. But we

must not forget that the majority of these

symptoms are spurious, and of relieving

themselves we may encourage her in her heart.

But in cases where there is actual disease,

infarctio, or along the spine it may be treated of.
Counter irritation. The inability to swallow resulting from the stiffness of the jaws, they be treated by the cold douche.

If called during the paralysis we can do nothing more than stimulate the patient to prevent her injuring herself during the fit. We may present the ice-bath sometimes anticipating the preceding symptoms, by pouring cold water on the face or by letting her breathe into vapors of ammonia.

The spasmodic closure of the glottis is also over some of the face use of cold water, which acts by producing violent inspiration efforts.

The chief part of the treatment consists in removing the cancer both to dispersing and exciting, though the predisposing cause may be lessening, by a strict attention to the general health of the patient, and the employment of proper remedies at
May be seen come. The patient should be kept quiet. As a tonic, the use of tea, which is known to be well received, is recommended. This when properly applied has the power of giving strength and tone to the system. The patient should be instructed to rise early, make use of the shower baths, take a proper amount of exercise. The diet should be light and nutritious. In patients who are long subject to the disease, have become sensitive to a great degree, it may be proper to use some of the merciful preparations. The best is the carbonate of soda; give in regular doses.

But in the large majority of cases, I think it would be better to employ the cold shower baths. Enjoin upon the patient the necessity of rising and retiring early.
Thus used and so accompanied in my opinion cold water will prove the most effective and durable Tonic. The patient should refrain from going to places of amusement which are calculated to excite the passions. Thus treated, I think this disease would be eradicated. And by a proper mode of life the miserable patient would be freed from it entirely. And might enjoy her probation here as Nature intended.