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COMPOSITE PORTRAITS OF GENERAL PARESIS
AND OF MELANCHOLIA.

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THE accompanying composite photograph of general paresis is made from the portraits of eight patients, three females and five males. The composite negative was made by THE NOTMAN PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY, of Boston, from negatives taken by the writer. The percentage of females is higher than in the natural ratio of the two sexes in the disease. The cases are all in the second stage of the disease, and their individual portraits show the marked characteristics of general paresis. One of the women and three of the men have had apoplectiform seizures. The average duration of the disease, at the time of photographing, was, in the women, two and one-third years, and in the men one and three-fourth years. With the exception of one woman, all were in good general physical condition, and able to go out walking and join in the usual round of asylum life; the one woman who was the exception was still able to go out walking on pleasant days, but was not so vigorous as the others.

The composite of general paresis seems fairly to represent the physiognomy of general paresis; the eyes have the typical inexpressive and staring look; and the facial lines of expression have been gradually obliterated and smoothed

out, giving the well-known appearance of easy-going complacency. It is to be hoped that further work in this line may give a more just conception of the typical expression in the different forms of mental disease than has hitherto been obtained from portraits of individual cases.

The composite portrait of melancholia is made up of eight subjects,—all men.



General Paresis.



Melancholia.

The composite of melancholia is perhaps somewhat more clear and distinct than that of paresis. A comparison of the eyes of the two portraits shows much more expression in the portrait of melancholia, and the facial lines in this are all more clearly defined than in the other. The well-known staring look of paretics is entirely absent in the composite of melancholia.