

railway-spine or railway-brain presents the phenomenon of hysteria, in what way do they differ from hysteria proper? Neurasthenia may be added the other condition (hysteria), as it is frequently, but no hybrid disease results, any more than when exophthalmic goitre and hysteria co-exist, or Addison's disease, or migraine. The two may be combined, but never compounded. Vibert says there is no special form of general paralysis following an injury. The disease acts just as in spontaneous cases. Charcot makes the same statement in regard to hysteria. The author objects seriously to so-called toxic hysterias, for the nervous symptoms in cases of poisoning may express themselves in three distinct pathogenic forms or stages of special evolution, that may or may not be hysteria. In the first, the nervous symptoms disappear simultaneously with the general phenomena of intoxication. They owe their existence to the presence of some toxic element, and hysteria is not their source. In other cases, as the poison is eliminated, nervous manifestations increase; but alterations in sensibility always affect circumscribed territories under such circumstances, as the region of a plexus, a nerve-trunk, or its branch. Paralysis of motility is accompanied by muscular atrophy sometimes, and the reaction of degeneration always. In a third order the patient has recovered long ago; the poison has been altogether eliminated; but the man or woman is paralyzed, anæsthetic, with muscular, articular, and cutaneous sensibility deficient or lost and faradic reaction normal, and other symptoms characteristic of true hysteria. This is simply the history of an hysterical person who has been poisoned, and not the history of any special new disease.

HYDROTHERAPY IN MENTAL DISEASE.

In the "Bulletin de la Société de Médecine mentale de Belgique" (Dec., 1889) forty-four pages are devoted to a study of this subject, by Dr. Jul. Morel. Various forms of application for different abnormal states—as neurasthenia, epileptic, choreic, or hysterical mania, hystero-epilepsy, melancholia, general paresis, etc.—are considered with care and precision. The bibliographical index is of value, comprising some twenty-eight sources of information. Mechanical methods of cure have not as yet received all the attention they deserve, it being easier to take something than to do something. In the treatment of mental and nervous disease there is, without doubt, a brilliant future for hydrotherapy.

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