

quoted in confirmation of this. It is further pointed out that the old idea that hysteria is only met with in the luxurious classes is not borne out, as all the cases recorded in this work are those of hard-worked people, who had good constitutions, and who were strong and robust.

The part which heredity plays in the ætiology of such affections is referred to; and of the exciting causes, the first place is given to traumatism, emotion and intoxication by lead, mercury and alcohol. In conclusion, tables of comparison between male and female hysteria are drawn up, and traumatism is shown to be the most potent cause in males, while moral emotion is by far the most common cause in females. It is further shown that while men exhibit an excess of the paralytic and spasmodic affections, women exhibit an excess when all hysterical conditions are considered as a whole, for the condition is then found to be twice as common in females.

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*Flushing and Morbid Blushing.* By HARRY CAMPBELL, M.D., B.S.Lond. London: H. K. Lewis.

DR. CAMPBELL'S book deals with interesting if still somewhat obscure conditions. In the present state of our knowledge of the vaso-motor system and the manner in which its functions are performed, it is not to be expected that any explanation of such phenomena as are here discussed can be either full or final in its details. But in this volume a large mass of clinical material is used, and an attempt, interesting and suggestive, is made to furnish an explanation of the various conditions. First of all a succinct account is given of what may be called the Jacksonian conception of the nervous system, as divided into three evolutionary levels. With this as a background the subject of flushing is next discussed in its different manifestations, and the view is propounded that in this condition there is what is called a "nerve storm," a discharge of nervous energy, and in view of the fact that this discharge is accompanied by emotional and intellectual states, it is supposed to originate in the highest evolutionary level.

Morbid blushing is regarded as closely analogous, differing, however, in being as a rule determined by a mental state, and in having manifest vaso-motor phenomena; while in flushing, on

the other hand, there *may* be only subjective sensations of vaso-motor changes, without any objective phenomena. In both cases it will be seen the vaso-motor conditions are regarded as secondary. Such a view necessarily supposes a condition of cells more or less unstable, and this leads to a discussion of the pathology of this and other neuroses. A good deal is said about the plasmic environment of the cell, and if in this part the writing is discursive and a trifle didactic, it cannot be said to be dull. As regards treatment, special stress is laid on good hygienic surroundings, and as to blushing in particular, on education carried out with the view of discouraging premature and excessive introspection.

The theory, it will be seen, is novel and ingenious, and the book is one which will be read with interest.

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