

Trophic Alteration and Spontaneous Shedding of the Nails in an Hysterical Woman. I. FALCONE. (Quoted from *La Riforma Med.*, August, 1886, in *Rivista Clinica*, October, 1886.)

After the observations of Joffroy and Pitres regarding the spontaneous shedding of the nails in ataxia, as well as the numerous examples of individuals so afflicted when suffering from general paralysis, disseminate sclerosis from gout, etc., the writer feels justified in adding this case of similar trouble in an hysterical subject.

A woman, 50 years old, of good heredity and excellent constitution, had always been healthy until 1870, when she lost her son. Her character changed entirely. She became irascible, sad, and commenced to complain of left hemicrania, then of dyspepsia, colic pains, recurrent moroseness, then transitory paralysis presented itself in the extremities, hyperæsthesia, and wandering paræsthesia, then coughing with sense of constriction, aphasia, globus hystericus, salivation, and a profuse sweating of the lower extremities. All these symptoms persisted in turn from 1870 to 1880, and did not disappear after a long journey, which had been prescribed, except the cough.

In November, 1885, the patient visited the tomb of her son, which event made a great impression upon her, and resulted in the return of the laryngeal symptoms of the hysteria, and with them psychical excitement.

A second trip dissipated the greater part of these symptoms. However, Feb. 16th, 1886, the husband observed that the patient's nails presented a curious appearance of fine rugæ and a loss of the healthy lustre, the most on the right thumb. Feb. 19th, the lady complained of slight formication in the right thumb and both of the great toes, and there was a formation of pus under these nails, and they were shed. After this there was a suppuration with abundant and fœtid pus, and in the space of two months the matrix and bed of the nails became covered with a new epidermis. The other nails remained in place. In them was observed a most active growth and a hardening; they desquamated easily, and appeared duller than in health.

In the process of repair, the nails of the toes grew from the matrix and recovered the appearance and consistency of health, while the nail of the right thumb was a proliferation of the bed of the nail *without any participation of the matrix*. It grew irregularly, with prominences of various sizes which crossed it in all points, and by the character of the form which it assumed seemed rather a drying up of the bed of the nail. GRACE PECKHAM.

THERAPEUTICS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM.

A Case of Traumatic Epilepsy Cured by Trepanning
(*Centralb. f. Nervenheilkunde, Psych., etc.*, November 15th, 1886).