

phlegmonous swelling over the left temporal region which was followed by aphasia and by paralysis of the right side of the face and the right arm. An incision into this subperiosteal abscess in the temporal fossa was not followed by any amelioration of the cerebral symptoms. The next day trephining was performed, and a button of bone was removed from over the area of the centre for the upper extremity, and a lesion was sought for which M. Terrillon believed would be found between the bone and the dura; but nothing was discovered.

Suspecting a cerebral abscess, three exploratory punctures were made, instead of an incision, as the operator did not believe that the rules laid down for cranio-cerebral topography in the adult applied equally as well to the child's brain. On the third puncture an abscess was found, which was freely opened. Following the evacuation of the contents of the abscess, the paralysis almost completely disappeared. Three days after the operation, meningoencephalitis developed, and the patient died.

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OBSERVATIONS AND THEORIES RELATING TO HYPNOTISM.

In the *Gazette Degli Ospitale* are reported several interesting cases in which good results have been obtained by means of hypnotism.

The following case of nervous vomiting is reported by Dr. A. Colombi, in the *Journal* of March 31, 1889. The patient was a girl of twelve, who for a month had been affected with nervous vomiting occurring suddenly after each meal. She was irritable and showed a great lack of strength. She was hypnotized twice by means of fixing her eyes on a clinical thermometer for a few minutes. The vomiting and general weakness disappeared after the second treatment, and the irritability likewise, the child becoming happy and contented.

Dr. G. Ficano, in the same journal, August 11, 1889, publishes a case of hysterical cough cured by what he calls "moral" influence. The patient, a young woman, had suffered with a severe cough for several months. Her par-

oxysms were frequent and appeared like laryngismus stridulous, and the cough sounded like the barking of a large dog. There was no expectoration.

An examination with the laryngoscope was attended with such difficulty that the physician brought in an old patient to demonstrate the process ; the latter, owing to the medication had such a spasm of the glottis as to greatly alarm the young woman, after which it was noticed that her cough decreased in frequency and in intensity. Seeing this the physician threatened her with an operation if the cough did not cease. This, together with a couple of examinations with laryngoscope, and the application of five per cent. solution of cocaine, resulted in a cure. The case is not remarkable or unusual, but its interest for the present time results in the pointing out of the relation which exists between a strong moral influence acting on the physical in the same manner as an hypnotic suggestion. Suggestion, the writer goes on to say, is none other than a very powerful moral agent acting not alone on the intelligence, but also on the body, on the physical.

Quierolo reports in the *Gazzetta Degli Ospitali* of September 4, 1889, a very interesting case of a girl sixteen years old who had a great horror and aversion to food. She would have a spasm of terror every time nourishment was offered to her in any form. No argument or persuasion was of any avail and she was soon reduced to skin and bones. This was the very abnormal symptom, her mental qualities, her affections and desires were perfectly well balanced. She wished ardently to be cured but was dominated by this paralyzing terror of food.

The physician encountered the greatest difficulty in hypnotizing her. Few would have persevered as he did. He tried every method known for a month and a half. He even hypnotized a patient before her. Finally, he made her feel somewhat sleepy by placing a magnet before her eyes. After several sittings hypnosis was obtained, before this every suggestion to eat was received by shaking the head. This time the suggestion was made that the next day at eleven she would come to the physician's house and would

eat, and that food would taste good to her. An attempt was made to make her eat before that time with no success. Toward eleven she was dressed and led to the house, seated at a table, and without resistance began in a mechanical way, to carry her fork to her mouth and continued to eat during the meal.

She was cured in a month and a half from the day of the first suggestion, having passed three years in the miserable condition described.

The author has already cited claims that hypnotism should be more used as a therapeutic agent. Doctor Giacomo Lumbroso's article in *Lo Sperimentale* of June, 1889, on this very subject is most just and able. It is entitled *Hypnotism as a Curative Measure*. He first discusses the difference of opinion between the Parisian School (Charcot) and that of Nancy (Bernheim) as to whether hypnotism is to be considered a phenomenon of suggestion, or whether it is produced in its three stages of lethargy, catalepsy, and sonnambulism spontaneously. He cites arguments and cases which he thinks amount to a demonstration of the fact that hypnotism is in reality a neurosis which may be provoked by suggestion, or spontaneously, or with some manœuvre without suggestion of any sort. The doctrine adopted at Salpêtrière, by Charcot, is not a classification of the disease but an analysis. The complete forms are rare, but can be produced artificially from the incomplete forms which are common.

The susceptibility to hypnotism is less than that established by Bernheim. He thinks it 50 per cent. of the neuropathic.

Dr. Lombroso considers his subject under two heads.

1st. What are the dangerous effects of hypnotism.

2nd. What curative action has it in different diseases.

His first point is one of great importance and is apt to be lost sight of in the promiscuous experimentations which are constantly taking place. He speaks of the indirect injury which results from the knowledge to the laity that there exists a method by which it is possible to render the will of the individual inert, to constrain him to do and to

think according to the wishes of another, giving aims as has already been the case to a number of complicated medico legal questions.

Still more important are the dangers which are the direct outcome of its use on the individual. They may be said to be immediate and remote, the latter being by far the most frequent. He gives an instance of a young girl who lay for many hours in a lethargic sleep, from which it was impossible to awaken her. Flagellations, electricity, stimulation of every kind were used, until at last the awakening was spontaneous. The extremities were cold, and there was extreme pallor.

In the case of another young girl afflicted with hysterical paralysis, whom he attempted to cure with hypnotism, at the first attempt there were convulsive phenomena, accompanied with vomiting and hiccoughing. She was removed to a hospital. The convulsions, which were very severe, lasted three hours.

The immediate ill effects of hypnotism are not nearly as frequent as the remote. Some who are hypnotized for the first time remain in a dazed condition, and it is several days before they regain their natural state. After repeated hypnotism they change their character: some are melancholic, others are a prey to morbid excitation. Many fall an easy victim to diseases similar to those of which they have been cured—a predisposition to contagion. Others have a mania to simulate diseases carried to a greater degree than in the hysterical. Others assert themselves in a bizarre way, as if seeking compensation for the violence done to their will, or will attempt to gain their wishes in any manner possible. To the psychic state of these post-hypnotic conditions he gives the name of *neurosis of the hypnotized*. He adds that, since hypnotism is a disease which acts directly upon the brain, it is not strange that it leaves some trace behind.

The author does not deny that, as a therapeutic agent, it has had at times the most happy curative effects. Insanity, paralysis, contractures, spasms, neuralgia, have been cured by it. He cites several interesting cases of cures.

He concludes from his discussion of the subject with the

following remark, which, it seems to us, should be borne in mind by whomever attempts to use hypnotism :

“Hypnotism should be used solely in those cases in which the gravity and the pertinacity of the malady indicate it, and only then after the use of every means of cure known to our art.”

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HYSTERICAL CHOREA.

In the *British Medical Journal*, of July 6, 1889, P. Blaikie Smith reports a case of this kind in a woman, aged twenty-two, with the following symptoms when first seen : Eyes closed, face averted, shoulders and arms in constant movement. Each shoulder was alternately either violently raised or brought forward, and then suddenly lowered or retracted, while the arms were constantly rotated inward or energetically flexed. The arm and shoulder movements seemed to bear no relation to each other, though both sets of movements were liable to sudden and unaccountable exacerbations. There were no spasms of muscles about the neck, no contortions of the face, and speech was unaffected. The tongue was protruded quietly, and remained out for inspection until the patient was told to withdraw it. The grasp of both hands, notably the right, was much impaired. Superficial reflexes of the legs and trunk were greatly diminished ; the knee-jerks were much exaggerated, and capable of being produced by tapping the rectus tendon on the front of either thigh. Rectus clonus was present on both sides, ankle clonus absent, the legs free from spasm, heart-sounds normal, and heart-action regular.

It soon became evident that the spasmodic movements were performed with a certain regularity, that they ceased during sleep, were intensified by emotion, yet could in a measure be controlled. The patient could feed herself, could knit, could write, but not legibly, on account of her violent contortions, but could not sew. The body swayed when walking, and progress was erratic. The mind was clear, and the woman generally cheerful, though there were occasional fits of crying.