

not drop it, and can carry it, or place it here or there as may suit her inclination. The following is the last illustrative case:—"I was called in consultation by my colleague and friend, Dr. Horteloup, to a young lady nineteen years of age, belonging to a family of distinction. This young person, who had received a superior education, entertained sentiments of high morality and enlightened religious belief without affectation or pretence, possessed, in a word, of a well balanced mind; and these intellectual and moral endowments were such that with her it was impossible to suspect any kind of trickery, or pretence, by the aid of which hysterical patients, one does not know why, appear to wish to impose upon those surrounding them and upon physicians themselves, when they can. This young lady had lost, eight or ten months before, her sister, to whom she was united by the most ardent ties of affection. Her grief was the more profound, that independent of the blow she herself experienced, she felt deeply her mother's bereavement. From that time she had been seized with grotesque convulsive movements of the head, and superior limbs; nevertheless, when she came to Paris to consult Dr. Horteloup who had previously attended her, her melancholy appeared a little less gloomy, her natural vivacity in a measure resumed its wont, and she allowed herself to be diverted willingly from her painful thoughts. I found her with all the appearance of good health; but her entire left side was agitated by violent choreic movements, to such an extent that there was reason to fear that she would injure herself by falling against the furniture or the walls of the room. If an attempt was made to arrest these movements, for instance by taking her hand, not only they were not arrested, but increased, and occasioned her a painful sensation, a state of general *malaise* of the most painful kind. There was however one method of calming as if by enchantment this muscular agitation, it was to lead the young lady to the piano; she could there remain one or two hours playing as correctly and as regularly as possible without losing the measure or missing a single note. Before us she executed with marvellous facility a most difficult piece, and this fact alone, without considering others, gave me sufficient proof that this form of chorea had nothing in common with the dance of St. Vitus." You will readily admit, gentlemen, that this view

of the profound thinker and most careful discriminator, Trousseau, is not lightly to be considered, but may we not fairly group among the factors in this case morbid thought, emotional exaltation, and excitement of ganglionic nerve centres? The question however arises, is Professor Ziemssen strictly correct in associating wilful simulation with hysteria? That it is a frequent concomitant there can be no doubt, but is there not a little doubt that frequently it is a functional disturbance of the nervous system attended with hallucinations in the sensory, and convulsions in the motor tract, quite independent of all simulation? That it is, as described by Professor Jolly of Heidelberg, a general neurosis of the brain and spinal cord, and with much probability of the peripheral and sympathetic nervous system, having among its most important primary factors hereditary liability, a certain psychical constitution with a tendency to powerful and changeful emotions, and little strength of will, and primary anæmia. Chief among the secondary causes, is faulty education. Hysterical mothers transmit not only the seeds of disease to their children, but also favor its development by education and their own example; the whole mode of feeling and thought transferring itself from continued intercourse. As in children, so also sometimes in nurses who have for a long time attended hysterical patients, this so-called imitative infection is operative; or in other patients, who have been nursed beside such; and above all, in people who have been the accidental witnesses of an hysterical attack. This sort of infection, however, is only operative in such individuals as are already predisposed to hysteria. The older pathologists trace a close relationship in chorea to rheumatism and endocarditis, and but a small minority to traces of lesion of nervous system. English pathologists attach less importance to rheumatism than to endocarditis, and its sequelæ, *i. e.*, vegetations principally in mitral valve, occasionally in aortic. Drs. Ogle and Pye Smith give a number of cases illustrating these lesions. Kirkes considers that endocarditis is the cause of the chorea through the inflammatory products of the valves, which become mixed with the blood and disturb the functions of the nervous centres. Broadbent considers from numerous autopsies, that the corpus striatum and thalamus opticus are the locations of choreic irritation, particularly capillary embolism of these portions of the brain. Tuck-