

healed rapidly. About February 8, 1888, she was bitten in the face and neck by the same dog, which was then killed. About March 1, she began to behave strangely, and Dr. McNichol "at once discovered that she had symptoms of hydrophobia." March 7, she began biting like a dog, and became frantic at the sight of water. She tried to bite the doctor and had to be tied down. Opiates "had no effect upon her." *Death occurred* March 8, 1888.—*Philadelphia Evening Telegram*, March 10, 1888.

CASE XV.—Boy (Arthur Tate, near Carthage, Illinois), eight years old. Bitten March 27, 1888, on the face, by a large shepherd dog, which afterwards attacked a man and escaped. The wound was carefully cauterized. April 26, he acted strangely, and soon had spasms and snapped and bit and went into convulsions at sight of water. Physicians were called and said he had rabies. The boy was tied to the bed and held by three men, and was given "powerful opiates, which did not allay the awful spasms." *Death occurred* April 29, 1888.—*New York Herald*, May 1, 1888.

The tabular statement of the foregoing cases, which I have prepared, will spare me the trouble of a detailed analysis. But, I would call your attention to a few points which have impressed me in studying it.

1. *The effect of anticipation of hydrophobia.*—This is said to have been present in seven of the fifteen cases, and may be suspected in more.

2. *The lack of evidence of rabies in the animal which did the biting.*—Not one of the animals furnished more than ground for a suspicion that it was rabid. The fact that a fighting dog bites a man who interferes with it, is no evidence that it is rabid, nor is the manifestation of a vicious temper a good evidence of rabies. The same may be said of death in a fit.

3. *The effect of a diagnosis of hydrophobia.*—In ten of the fifteen cases it is stated that the physicians made an early diagnosis of hydrophobia, and presumably they failed to conceal the fact from the patient.

4. *The effect of applying the test of the water.*—This is said to have been done in seven of the fifteen cases, and it was probably done in almost all of them.

5. *The assertion that canine symptoms were present.*—Five of the patients are said to have whined, or howled, or snapped, or bitten at their attendants.

6. *The frequency of forcible restraint.*—This is said to have been employed in eight of the cases.

7. *The uselessness of administering narcotics.*—Powerful narcotics are said to have been used in

ten of the cases; and they were probably used in all. Curare is said to have been used in four cases.

You will, I trust, permit me to think that my prolonged study of hydrophobia has produced something which may be called an opinion—not prejudice—in regard to its nature and treatment; and I should be a coward if I hesitated to express my opinion for fear that I should once more be accused of prejudice. I have on several previous occasions declared my belief that hydrophobia is not a specific inoculable disease. I believe this more firmly to-day than ever before. I do not deny that men and women and children sometimes fall into a peculiar state after a dog-bite, and die in due time. But I do deny that this is attributable to any specific virus in the dog's saliva. The same thing has occurred too often from other causes, to justify one in charging it to a specific virus when it follows a dog-bite. And, I believe that rejection of the specific theory will do more to banish hydrophobia from the world than anything which we have ever heard of.

The word "hydrophobia" should be used only to describe a condition—and not a disease—as we use the word "convulsions," and it should be remembered that this condition may be present in a great number of diseases, as I tried to show you when you last met in this city, in 1884.

I firmly and honestly believe that if this view of what is called hydrophobia were generally accepted, the disorder would shrink and disappear as the genie is said, in the tales of the "Arabian Nights," to have shrunk and disappeared when the right word was spoken. And, I call your attention to the fact that hydrophobia is now almost unknown in our own State of Pennsylvania. Not a single case has occurred in our State since we last met, and I cannot but attribute this fact partly to the extent to which your judgment confirms the opinions to which my studies of hydrophobia have led me.

I do not despair of seeing the belief in hydrophobia follow the belief in witchcraft, which once had the support of Church and State, of the medical profession and the laity, but which now, thank God! torments our fellow-men no more. So long, at least, as Pennsylvania presents the spectacle of freedom from the thralldom of ancient superstition, in regard to hydrophobia, and freedom from its curse, I cannot but think that the former has some causal connection with the latter.