

in the direction of fear or sadness, and sometimes a claustrophobia or agoraphobia so marked as to put the sufferer really over the border into the class of the insane; the wide open paralytic pupil, the furtive, apprehensive manner and facial expression. But I must not weary you with further elaboration of the distressing picture, only point out finally that, as Savile has it, "Hysterical disorders are not so much those of exhaustion as of active perversion of the functions, such as localized paralyses, anesthesiae, etc." Anesthesia, especially segmental, or hemianesthesia, while very common in hysteria, is extremely rare in neurasthenia, though hyperesthesia is common enough in both, and, while in hysteria, emotional disturbance and mental exaltation predominate, in neurasthenia intellectual weakness is usually first to attract attention, and persists as a prominent feature of the case.

One of the most serious aspects of neurasthenia, and one of which I believe that the profession at large is not sufficiently aware, is its tendency towards insanity. I am sure that in emphasizing this point I shall be supported by all who have had much experience with this disease.

I shall close my fragmentary account of the protean symptoms of these two diseases by reminding you of their not infrequent co-existence in the same patient, a condition that often taxes one's diagnostic and more especially one's therapeutic skill and ingenuity severely.

Upon the question of the treatment of these functional nervous disorders, I shall not venture to do more than generalize. Detailed discussion is out of the question here and now. It is the tritest commonplace to say that in this field, chiefly, the quack and charlatan find their most profitable stamping ground. I need not try to explain in detail why this is so. The fact is patent and has been for centuries. One very important item in the explanation of it is that what these sufferers most need is moral support, the substitution of a strong will and a fixed faith in the means of cure, for their own vacillation and discouragement. If this is not provided for them by a scientific and rational man, they will seek it from a christian scientist, an osteopath, a Shaman, a spiritualist, a Gypsy fortune teller, or any other of the charlatans who have existed from time immemorial, in all stages of civilization and in all communities.

It would be too much to expect that, human nature being as it is, and the primordial gullibility of *homo sapiens* being so invincible, the irregular will ever be banished from the earth. The sharps will continue to live upon the flats, in medicine as in all other walks of life. But our duty is to protect the public, in virtue of a better training and higher ideals, and we can best do this by inquiring in the first place how well we actually