

The first thing I wish to call attention to, is the manifestation of hysterical symptoms and the importance of recognizing it as a possible symptom of cerebro-spinal fever.

Dr. Radcliffe quotes Dr. S. Gorden as saying he has known several cases in which the earlier symptoms of cerebro-spinal meningitis in young and excitable people have been mistaken for hysteria.

Dr. William Pepper says: "Mild cases of cerebro-spinal fever have been mistaken for hysteria, but the muscular rigidity and fever should prevent mistakes."

In the first case the symptoms resembled hysteria so closely that a physician of forty years' experience, whom I had in consultation, expressed his doubts with the words: "Well, if it is hysteria, she'll recover; if it is meningitis, she'll die."

In the second case the available history of the earlier symptoms is not so complete, but that there were hysterical symptoms is quite evident.

In the second place, I would call attention to the danger of not recognizing mild sporadic cases of cerebro-spinal fever. Pepper says: "The disease is so often sporadic that I fear the term, 'epidemic cerebro-spinal fever,' has, not rarely, led to a failure to recognize the nature of isolated cases, and with regard to mild cases, "the diagnosis may be difficult except during epidemics of the disease."

In the last case mentioned there are reasonable grounds for doubting if it were cerebro-spinal fever, but I mention it as a type of what we often see in children. We exclude everything else, but are inclined to wait for opisthotonos before we are sure enough to pronounce the trouble cerebro-spinal fever. If recovery takes place before such symptoms develop, we are apt to think our fears were groundless after all.

I have purposely avoided any effort at an essay on cerebro-spinal fever, but have endeavored to lay particular stress upon the possibility of hysteria as an early symptom, and upon the fact that we are liable not to recognize sporadic cases unless they reach a severe, I might say fatal, stage.

An interesting circumstance connected with these cases is that the first two young women mentioned were members of