

There has been no such dearth in the clinical facts of the disease, and for centuries it has been described clinically with the various ornaments that imagination could devise or ambition suggest. The admirable state of confusion into which the literature upon any subject may be brought by diligent ignorance may be gathered from the fact that in a standard work upon psychiatry there occurs under the heading of epilepsy a sombre enumeration of sixty-five varieties, which for epic simplicity (not without grandeur) reminds one of the catalogue of Achaean ships.

Nevertheless, a careful analysis of even forty or fifty cases will illustrate the diversity of the clinical features ; and while an extended clinical report of half that number would be as irksome as crude masses of clinical detail, clumsily piled up without logic or scientific intuition usually are, a few notes upon a dozen typical cases will cast some light upon the subject, and by occasion afford data also for questions subsequently to be brought under consideration.

CASE 1. A child of nine. Father an epileptic. In the child the disease had first appeared a year before. The first fit, and such reports must always be received with a reservation, was said to have followed a fright. During the year the fits had become more frequent, and more severe in character. The child had a fit in my presence. Falling suddenly to his hands and knees, the muscles were drawn for a moment in a tonic spasm, followed by tremor and a jerking of the extremities when he rolled about on the floor. While in this position he bit at my leg and hand. Lifting him to his feet a moment afterwards the fit passed off, and he answered my questions rationally, but in a very slow, hesitating voice. He was unaware of the fit that had just passed, and did not remember having bitten at me. He seemed below the average in intelligence, and was cachectic physically.

CASE 2. A young man of twenty. He has had fits for some three years, but at long intervals. His manner is restless, and his speech excitable, indicating an entire lack of self-control. An impossible religiousness is his favorite affectation, but his conscientious scruples are inconsistent with the rest of his life. Led by one impulse, he suddenly amazed a group of strangers with the most puerile antics, and, carried away by another, he broke forth into a violent tirade against the nude in art, threatening to tear down a small picture upon which his chaste eyes were riveted, and which shocked and pained him. He is given to closing his eyes and moving his lips for a few moments, after which he will take the company into his confidence, and say that he had been engaged in silent prayer. He knelt by a fountain for half an hour and glared at a small fish. Said that the fish and himself were parts of God. As his fits occur