

Nervous System. Reflexes and general sensibility show nothing abnormal. The same may be said in regard to the special senses.

*Note.* January 7th. Heart very troublesome today. He says his heart is always worse after making even the slightest effort and he has to lie down to steady it. The heart is irregular, but there is no murmur and it is not enlarged. His general condition is splendid.

January 14th. Heart still very irregular and causing trouble. He is sleepless as a result of irregularity. The general health is good.

February 16th. For the past week he has been very much better.

March 10th. Continued improvement. Patient feels much better to-day.

March 22nd. Patient discharged, apparently perfectly cured. He has since been acting as an orderly in the hospital, and states that his health is splendid.

In both these cases the examination of the blood and of the urine showed nothing abnormal. Of these two patients, the former was suffering from psychasthenia, and his disease, if untreated, would, I believe, have terminated in insanity. The latter I think may be regarded as an example of somatasthenia.

The differential diagnosis of brain exhaustion, while at times easy to make, is at other times one of the most difficult problems in medicine. This latter is especially true in the somatic form of the disease, when the diagnosis between an organic and functional lesion becomes at times extremely difficult. An organic lesion may of course be found in brain exhaustion and an incipient tuberculosis or a general paralysis, in an early stage, a neoplasm in the abdominal cavity, and a tumor of the brain are a few of the many instances in which a mistake may easily occur. On the other hand, the reverse mistake is far from uncommon, especially in regard to the pelvic organs. Here some menstrual irregularity or pain over the ovaries is at once taken to mean only local disease, and local treatment, either medical or surgical, is advised. Again disorders of digestion are diagnosed as lesions of the stomach and lavage, etc., used for months. Or a pain over the appendix has led to an appendicectomy, a case of which has recently been under my observation. In this case soon after the appendix had been removed a localized pain developed on the opposite side of the abdomen. As no physical lesion could be found x-rays were employed without result and finally the abdomen was again opened, but no cause for the pain could be discovered. An intensification of the symptoms finally led to the belief that the trouble might be of nervous origin, and the patient was referred to me, entering my hospital at Deer Park. Medical treatment for three months completely restored her to health. I merely mention this case in order to emphasize the error