

But in these hypersensitive patients the fact I now refer to comes sharply into view with a frequency which places the theory of Freud (in my experience) as a most unusual condition and the law may thus be formulated.

If a person has had at any time in their life a defect or disease producing a supersensitive region, such, for instance, as a sciatica or a cervical occipital neuralgia, or a lumbar neuralgia, or myalgia, or an old psychological sore; or if the patient is at the time suffering from a mild form of any physical derangement or irritating surroundings, which ordinarily would not disturb them, nevertheless when some abnormal stimulus, be it bodily, external world, or cortical in origin, causes them to become hypersensitive, then this original weak point, or this subacute malady, becomes raised in sensitivity, and becomes the centre of consciousness.

It is extremely easy for the observer to mistake these secondary symptoms for the causes which produced the hypersensitive condition.

Take the ordinary nervous woman, who has had a great deal of household worry during the week, with children constantly demanding some attention or other, and add to that some more acute stimulus, be it an upset digestion with pain, or a disturbance with a neighbor, or a memory thought over a favorite child who has died in the past.

She comes to see her physician in a hypersensitive condition, and presents to you probably a whole series of supersensitive areas, cephalalgia, old occipital neuralgia, backache, sciatica, all weak points, scarred by previous maladies, but none of which are the actual condition which has produced her present state, which condition she herself may not even mention to you, nor have any idea as to its importance in making her abnormally conscious.

So that the law may read.

Normal individual and more particularly hereditarily over-sensitive people, reacting to stimuli which make them hypersensitive, and so hyperconscious of their bodies, not only suffer from the conditions produced by the morbid agent, but also become hyperconscious of former bodily and physical injuries that have left slight abnormalities, and to such a degree that these old conditions may replace in prominence the actual diseased area in the patient's mind and feelings.

This law I find so general and so common in practice that by stating it here some advantage may follow to some fellow-physician. In conclusion let me briefly cite a few cases:

Mrs. M., aged 40, complains of pain between the shoulders. Careful study of her symptoms shows she has a dyspepsia depend-