

pseudo-choreas or habit spasms, and, in extending to them the name of Tic, the Salpêtrière school has developed a nomenclature and division somewhat confusing to Anglo-American ears. With our notions of the word tic applied to either the mimic spasm of the facial nerve—tic non-douloureux, or to neuralgia of the trigeminus—tic douloureux, it is a novel extension to hear such phrases as *la nèvrose tiqueuse, la maladie des tics convulsif, ticquer, tic psychique* and *tics coördonnés*. With the exception of Dana, recent authors of works on diseases of the nervous system, have not adopted either the nomenclature or the division recognized by the Salpêtrière school. It has certainly advantages, particularly in enabling us to separate a number of the spasmodic affections of children from chorea minor. The disadvantage lies in the use of a name already attached to two well-known and totally different affections, the spasm of the facial nerve and the neuralgia of the trigeminus. Still there need be no confusion in reality. The facial tic, like the spinal accessory and the hypoglossus spasms, differs entirely from the habit spasm, in as much as the convulsive seizures are situated within the domain of a definite nerve, and there is generally some lesion, central or peripheral.

The employment of the word with a significance different from that to which we are accustomed, is compensated for by the advantage of placing under it a group of allied affections which pass insensibly into one another, from a simple, habitual, conscious spasm of the facial muscles, to complex coördinated movements with marked psychical features, or to habit phenomena purely psychical. The distinguishing factor in the entire group is the habit or repetition, whether of motion or of idea, which, while influenced or controlled to some extent by the will, occurs in response to a sort of impulsion in the case of muscular movements, and in the case of imperative ideas as a sort of obsession.

The following is the classification of the tics adopted by recent French writers.*

1. Simple tic or habit spasm. These are the common cases of spasmodic movement, chiefly of the facial muscles, which are, to a certain extent, under the control of the will. In very many of these cases the affection seems to begin as a childish trick.

* See particularly Noir *Étude sur les Tics*. Paris, 1893.