

world or mind, need be of so minor a degree that to a normal person it would pass unnoticed, but in the inherited neurotic may lead to an acute series of symptoms.

However, be the patient sensitive more than usual, or be he normal, a certain intensity of stimulus will render each and all hypersensitive.

Now, having reached this plane, a strange phenomena occurs, inasmuch as, not only are they supersensitive to the original cause of their malady, but they become extremely more conscious of all stimuli, bodily, external world or mental.

Take a simple case: Mrs. W., aged 37, is a sensitive; her mother is an elderly woman of sixty-seven, who suffers from occasional severe attacks of local peritonitis, dangerous at her age. This external world stimulus, when it occurs, raises the daughter's sensitivity above normal and she becomes hypersensitive to all organs of her body, but usually one predominating.

She has nervous dyspnea, that is, she becomes conscious of the act of breathing, particularly so on any increase of exertion; she becomes conscious of the throbbing of her carotids, and of the cardiac apex beat; she feels the ache of that much bedraggled symptom—a floating kidney. As the mother recovers, the consciousness wears off, and these signs are no longer noticed.

Miss T., aged 38, has external world stimuli. "Indulges in speculation, and as a result has angry discussions with her father." Immediately following this cause, her sensitivity rises, she feels pains in manifold regions of the body, has cephalalgia, becomes conscious of her abdominal vessels pulsating, and she shows marked cerebral loss of control and difficulty in concentration, reading, sewing or writing, common symptoms of hypersensitivity.

Mr. J., aged 37, complains of three weeks palpitation of heart, consciousness of breathing, pains in back, dyspnea on slight exertion, inability to concentrate, easily loses control and mental balance. Cause is an external world stimulus, having discovered his wife exactly three weeks before in another man's embrace.

And so we can go from case to case, all showing a similarity in symptoms, the question being to discover the cause.

One of the most important features of these cases must now be considered.

Freud in his works speaks of many cases in which an old mental scar of years before is situated deep in a person's consciousness, but in which the person transfers the active memory over to some probably concurrent physical condition, which may be the apparent trouble for which the person seeks advice.