

ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE TICS OR HABIT
MOVEMENTS.*

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Linnæus "who found botany a chaos, and left it a cosmos," is said to have had the courage to write a treatise on the *Genera Morborum*. While the present condition of the classification of disease can hardly be called chaotic, yet order and system are necessarily lacking in the absence of a fuller knowledge than we now possess of the mutual relations of various disorders. There are, indeed, insuperable difficulties in the way of any broad systematic arrangement upon a basis either etiological or anatomical. Meanwhile, we jog along in an aimless fashion, ticketing the maladies according to their seeming similarity, adding daily to the existing complexity, and waiting for some twentieth century Linnæus with a genius for classification.

Nowhere is the confusion more evident than in the classification of diseases of the nervous system, particularly in the disorders characterized by abnormal movements. Even in an affection so well studied as chorea, it is very difficult to make a classification that will meet with universal approval. How can it be otherwise? We are by no means unanimous, either as to the nature of chorea minor, or as to the relations of other motor affections to it; for example, of the chronic progressive chorea of Huntingdon, which is regarded by most writers, and I think correctly, as separate and distinct from Sydenham's chorea; while Charcot and his pupils hold that it is only a variety.

Important studies have been made of late years upon the group of muscular disorders which have been described as

* Read before the American Pediatric Society. Montreal, May 25, 1896.