

was evidence that he had heard the hand clapping, and that, as his hearing was not lost, neither was his speech. He promptly replied verbally, and had no relapses during the two months before I saw him. All this time he did not suffer from nightmares or from any other anxiety symptoms.

This case is typical of the simple conversion hysteria that develops under the stress of warfare. Not only the history and symptoms are typical, but the speedy and apparently permanent recovery under competent treatment is equally representative of this group.

With these two cases in mind we may proceed to a few general considerations. Officers are affected in the proportion of five to one as compared with privates and non-commissioned officers, although in absolute numbers there are more in the latter group, of course. Explanations for this discrepancy will be offered later. As to the total number of neuroses developing in the different armies, there are no statistics available for general publication. But I have been informed that "shell shock" ranks with what were previously considered the more important conditions (excluding wounds) operating to remove men temporarily or permanently from active service. This makes it at once evident that functional nervous troubles are an extremely important medical problem. Unlike other casualties, however, there is a military significance in the nature of these neuroses. These do not merely cause the removal of many men from active service. As can be easily seen in the first case quoted, there may be the development of a state of fear which may last for weeks or months before the symptoms accumulate sufficiently to incapacitate the soldier totally. No matter how much any man may try to hide his fear, he cannot but unconsciously betray it, and so weaken, or tend to weaken, the morale of his group. This is not merely a psychological deduction, but has been confirmed by the statements of many officers who have observed these cases, and whom I had the opportunity of questioning on the subject.

Another point of military importance is that war neuroses are apparently a corollary of modern methods of fighting. The first