

if he is not examined carefully, you may begin to "build-up" his nervous system when you should "pull down" his arterial system. Neither you nor the patient can afford to make any such mistake as that. A slow pulse may excite suspicion on examination. I would be the last to counsel a necessarily serious view of such symptoms, but my point is that an estimation of blood-pressure may be a most useful help at this point to a complete physical examination. It seems to be a very valuable thing to know for the patient's sake the earliest period at which his blood-pressure is habitually raised. Degenerations in cerebral arteries producing inelasticity tend, one may suppose, to pass on to the cerebral tissue, unmodified, hyperemias and anæmias, which may be entirely transitory. Spasm of the vessels may occur with consequent anæmia. Yet these temporary anæmias and hyperemias, and at times consequent œdemas are very quickly reflected in the delicate functions of the part, producing the slight symptoms to which reference has been made; if less transitory they may cause aphasia or pareses, or even epileptiform or apoplectiform seizures; this statement is made without reference to the thromboses or ruptures which accompany more extreme grades of vascular degeneration. At a very early stage in the disease, the patient or his friends may realize his "loss of grip," and his inability to handle business affairs with his usual insight; here it is very necessary that the physician be not entirely led away by the idea that the patient is neurasthenic; it is a "pointer" worth remembering—a handwriting on the wall for us. "Look for arterial disease in the neurasthenic." The symptoms referable to arterial change are specially apt to come on after some crisis of business, or some exciting effort: when men "never lift up their heads again" after some family or business trouble, it is often arterial disease till then latent, which does the work. Paralyzes or asphacis attacks quickly recovered from are in the absence of syphilis, almost certain to be arteriosclerotic in source. So much for the cerebral manifestations of early arterial change, dealt with first because as a group they are