

of spinal action." He further remarks that the physiologist may produce the same condition in three ways: (1) by exaggerating the excitability of the spinal system by irritation of the centripetal nerves; 2) by exaggerating directly the action of the cord itself; and (3) by suppressing the functions of the brain.

These three conditions have each their pathological analogies, and they contain in themselves the totality of the pathogenic conditions of hysteria. Whatever has been the causation of this malady, he further says, we have always these two fundamental elements united, viz.: (1) the weakening of cerebral action, especially that of the will, and (2) the exaggeration of the automatic or spinal action (*hyperkinesie spinale*).

Thus we see that in these hysterical patients we have emotional subjects who are readily impressed by whatever may affect the sympathetic system, in other words, who are ruled too frequently by the emotions and too seldom by the will,—or as M. Jaccoud so well expresses it: "There is at least temporarily present a cerebral paresis." Now physiologically what does this mean? It must mean, if we adhere rigidly to the belief that the more or less complete abeyance of functional activity in a part is necessarily dependent upon a corresponding temporary absence of force-producing materials in the part, and, so far as we know, this means arterialized blood. For instance, pallor is an anaemia of the capillaries of the skin; while we have, unfortunately, too many examples showing that the functional activity of an arm or leg depends directly upon its nutrition. Moreover, our best authors give among the causes of hysteria, loss of blood, prolonged lactation, &c. The first of these shows that other than purely female disorders may be causes of this malady, i. e., hysteria may occur in delicate and impressionable males as well as in females.

In claiming the anaemia theory as explaining these states I am perfectly well aware that there are some authorities, notably Brown-Sequard, who are opposed to it as being in many cases a sufficient explanation of either hysteria or epilepsy. I find in notes taken from his lectures on the peripheral irritation of nerves, that his explanation of these pathological conditions is not on the supposition of any slow or sudden unequal distribution of blood to the brain, but that he considers the attacks essentially due to reflex action from peripheral sensations creating impressions upon the brain centres. Then