

## HYSTERICAL PHENOMENA AS AN EARLY SYMPTOM OF CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.\*

HUME declared, "Belief is nothing but a more vivid, lively, forcible, firm, steady conception of an object than imagination alone is even able to attain."

Certain phenomena, in several cases of cerebro-spinal fever, have been so emphatically brought under my attention, that I believe them to be of more importance, than usually considered.

On August 4th, 1894, Miss B—, aged 15 years, called at my office to consult me regarding an extensive ecchymosis surrounding one eye, for which condition there was no history of injury. I did not discover any constitutional disturbance, and prescribed some local treatment. The following day I received word she was better.

On the 6th I was called to see her and found the other palpebral region in a similar condition. There was no fever nor particular disturbance of the circulation or respiration, but there was a marked change in her nervous system.

Her condition resembled slight intoxication from alcohol. Very ordinary things seemed to be amusing to her, and she essayed funny replies to my questions. Her facial expression was comical, which the darkened palpebral regions rendered clownish.

I was inclined to consider her hysterical, but the symptoms were such that I saw her again that evening, when I found a slight rise in temperature. The next morning there was slight stiffness of the neck, the hysterical symptoms continued; there was anorexia and some vomiting. She was confined to her bed for several days; all symptoms improved so that by the 12th inst. the temperature being normal and appetite returning, I ceased to see her. Six days later I was called and found the temperature 104 deg. F. and rather marked stiffness of the neck. There

\* Being an Extract from a Paper read before the Quinte Medical Association by G. C. T. WARD,