

practice of detecting a thief in a household by placing some rice in the mouth of all. The thief's mouth alone is dry, while the mouths of all the rest are moist. It is not in jaundice merely that mental causes of hepatic disturbance are seen. Plenty of people know that mental excitement and still more perturbation upset their livers. They cannot afford to be angry. Worry and grief produce emaciation, even if food be taken. *Icterus ex motu animi* is readily seen from the altered hue of the skin. The other hepatic disturbances are not so obvious to the eye. Still the wan, worn, wasted expression of those who have undergone long and severe mental worry or distress is readily recognized by even ordinary observers. The late Dr. W. B. Carpenter pointed out how melancholy and jealousy had a malign influence upon the liver. Dr. Clifford Albut has told of "the mental causes of Bright's disease." While Dr. Charles Creighton, in speaking of the relation of the mind to the glands, says: "The lachrymal and salivary glands afford, perhaps, the most striking examples. But the wave of emotional disturbance spreads widely over the viscera, and certainly does not exempt the liver, although the action of the feelings upon the liver is, perhaps, less familiar to us than the reaction of the liver upon the feelings and temper." As to the writer, he recently contributed a series of articles to "health," entitled "Mind and Liver," which have since been published in collected form by Lea Brothers of Philadelphia. And the same opinions are held by a great many who have not, however, published them.

The hard, keen brain-toiler is liable to derange his viscera, and his liver reverts to the uric acid formation as years roll on. Not only that, but he begets children with congenitally insufficient livers, the *innate weakness of Murchison*. In some cases urates are seen in childhood, and vesical calculus is not infrequent in babies. More commonly, however, it begins to show itself after puberty. A lady of this type will present the following characteristics and symptoms: She is a bright, sensitive, high-spirited and usually high-scooled, unselfish creature; light in the bone, commonly petite, muscles not large, but firm, and when she shakes hands her grip is that of decision, as are the tones of her voice; her features are regular and mobile, often small; her susceptibilities are keen, and so are her special senses. She is capable of great devotion, and in her earnestness is usually self-forgetful; she is emotional, but not demonstrative, and is a distinct neurotic. As to her complaint, she has indigestion accompanied by acidity and flatulence, often alternating; commonly some constipation; she is liable to attacks of hemicrania, or migraine, or "face-ache," as she calls it, usually unilateral and on the right side, accompanied by sparks or "dazzles," often ending in vomiting; and these migrainous attacks are accompanied by great vesical irritability, and constant call to make water; she has fits of palpitation, and at other times failure of the heart's action, differing from syncope in that

there is no loss of consciousness, and she feels unutterable sensations, of which the expression of the eye mutely tells. She constantly has sediments in her water, though a small eater, and especially avoiding animal food. She has an insufficient liver which Dame Nature protects by a small fastidious appetite, and a dainty palate, despite which it reverts to the uric acid formation. She is a typical instance of the adage, "The sword will wear out the scabbard." She has no mercy upon her body, and her complaint is that it is very hard that she cannot do as others do. If she goes to the theatre or concert, she so thoroughly enjoys it all that probably she is in bed next day with migraine. Her old nurse speaks of her as "all up and down." Either volatile and gay, or irritable and depressed. Somatically these neurotics of the Arab type are the grey-hounds of the human race. Light, active, and nimble; but psychically greatly superior to these canine representatives.

She is to be found everywhere, but most markedly in towns. She is a charming patient; but rarely yields flattering results of treatment. She is acute and capable of taking care of any one but herself. She is in my experience commonly an American lady; and in most instances tells of the energetic, long-sustained, and usually successful efforts of her father. "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." Her father carried on severe mental toil at the expense of his viscera; his daughter comes into the world framed on his pattern. In both we find reversion to the uric acid formation, and, of course, with that the whole consequences thereof.

And one of the direct outcomes of uric acid in excess in the blood is interstitial nephritis, commonly termed "Chronic Bright's Disease."—*Phil. Medical Register*.

## DIET IN THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY.

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Epilepsy, like hydrophobia, a disorder of the nervous system without pathognomonic microscopic lesion, has for many years possessed a fascination for the scientific pathologist, who, according to his individual experience, and irrespective of that of his brethren, has sought to classify the disease, bestowing on each class a formidable scientific name.

Ignoring such classifications, I shall, for the purposes of chemical observation, and more especially for that of treatment, divide epilepsy into the following four great classes:

- 1st. Simple epilepsy—rare in women.
- 2d. Mixed epilepsy (hystero-epilepsy)—rare in men.
- 3d. Epileptiform seizures—result, of course from brain lesion, injury to head, tumor of cerebrum, etc.