

assume. I would like to add that to class all these cases of functional nervous troubles which are traumatic in origin under one title, is, I consider, erroneous, since it tends to confusion and increased difficulty in treatment. A simpler and more scientific arrangement would be to designate each case according to its relations to either hysteria or neurasthenia as, Traumatic Hysteria or Traumatic Neurasthenia, reserving the designation of Charcôt for the mixed cases in which the symptoms of both were blended.

Secondly. You will notice that fright, which is so common an accompaniment in these cases, and on which authors lay so much stress, was entirely absent in the case before you. He was leading the colt quietly by the halter, when without any warning it suddenly reared and struck him, and on recovering consciousness his first thought was not for himself, but for the animal which had escaped, so that the emotional effect was scarcely present in this case. Had the accident been preceded by a struggle or a severe fight, the result might have been quite different.

Thirdly. The case is an example of the fact that many cases which were formerly thought only to follow railway injuries may result from the ordinary accidents of every day life. That this impression in regard to the railway accidents persisted for so long a time, since when railway accidents were first written about, little was known of nervous diseases, and it has only been the specialist's work of the last few years which has revealed our present view of the matter. In regard to pathology, Dr. Russell Reynolds, in 1869, expressed clearly the view that certain morbid phenomena, the result of railway accidents, were, to use his own expression, "dependent on idea." Charcôt later took up this view and developed it more fully. Whatever the condition may actually be in hysterical cases does not concern us to-day, but in regard to those of a pure neurasthenic form, such as the one before us, I do not think it justifiable to consider them as "dependent on idea" in any way. I should rather consider them due to a molecular alteration, producing a change of nutrition in the nerve centres, which alteration is as yet invisible with our present means of research.

In regard to treatment, I would like to draw the attention of the Association to the marked effect of Central Galvanization, the improvement being decided from the first few days of treatment.