

A LAW OF SENSITIVENESS.

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Consider your patients who are suffering from bodily ailments, whether of pelvic, abdominal or thoracic origin, or from direct nerve irritation, such as sciatica or neuralgia. Perhaps on the other hand the disturbance may be outside of the body, and have to do with individuals, or with occurrences in the world they live in; and by this I mean the worry and strain of household cares, the daily fight for financial success or political honors, with the effect of the failure of life-long investments, or the defeat of all cherished ambitions, the strain of poverty or the disgrace of closely allied relations; in short, the sides of our daily life that produce painful or excessive mental impressions.

Or in the third place, in the case you are thinking of, there may be a history you have gained by psychoanalysis which shows an old scar on the mind, of years standing, so old in fact that it is below the surfact of daily thought.

Finally, perhaps, there is some toxin in the blood current, alcohol, sugar, lead or intestinal poison, that is causing your patient's nervous system to lose its normal health.

In any of these cases, the bodily, external world, psychical or blood-poisoned sufferer, the effect, produced by these various causes, produces very frequently a similar clinical picture in the mental and nervous symptoms which they complain of.

The person passes from a condition in which their nervous system is normal to a condition of hypersensitiveness and the hypersensitiveness may be caused, let me repeat again, by an organ in the body sending excessively intense or abnormal stimuli to the brain or cord; by the events of daily life outside the individual's body, inducing more than a normal rise in the emotional side of his being; by a similar rise being caused by the memory of past events in our lives, or by lastly the toxic effects of blood poisons producing a similar functional condition of the nerve cell, as follows other nerve and psychical stimuli.

Again, perhaps, this patient of yours has had a parent of nervous nature, an epileptic or hysterical or insane ancestry, and their child life has displayed the evil trend of an inherited hypersensitive mind, then you must expect that the stimulus of body,