

be due to poisoning of a secondary nature, resulting from changes in the mucosa of the bowel. Thus, intestinal parasites cause colitis, often with the production of much mucus, which acts as a good nidus, not only for the parasite itself but for bacteria, such as streptococci and colon bacilli. In all cases of obscure fever, especially in children, the stools should be examined, not only for parasites, but for ova.

(c) Acute and subacute colitis. Physical signs may be confined entirely to the stools, which may contain mucus in variable quantities, casts of the bowel, and occasionally blood.

(d) In severe constipation bouts of fever are not uncommon, and occasionally these are so marked that the presence of some local inflammatory mischief (appendicitis, stercoral ulcer, pericolic suppuration) or typhoid fever is suspected. Leucocytosis is always present, which helps to exclude the last disease, and often the count is high.

(9) *Rat-bite Fever.*

(10) *Nervous Fever.*—After a thorough examination, in which no signs have been discovered, the question of nervous influence must be considered. Cases of nervous fever fall into two groups.

(a) Some persons develop pyrexia more easily than others, just as some become delirious with less provocation than others. Those who possess an unstable thermotaxic mechanism cause much anxiety. After an acute febrile illness their temperature, instead of settling down, is apt to remain irregularly raised, sometimes for several weeks, though convalescence proceeds. They are generally very nervous people, and not infrequently there is something worse than mere neurosis in the family history. Much discretion is necessary. One stands to lose, whether the fever owns a definite organic cause or not, if he takes too little heed of the pyrexia, and this proves to have been significant of some important complication of the original illness, he may be blamed for carelessness or ignorance; if he elaborates his investigations and the condition subsides without serious developments he may be blamed for unnecessary activity.

(b) *Neuromimesis.*—The patient is usually a young woman of a temperament recognizable by the experienced clinician, but difficult to describe. Her morbid nervous state shows itself not only by pyrexia without organic cause, but also by the simulation of other pathological processes—anorexia, vomiting, eruptions and contractures. Cured of one of these, another takes its place. Her disease belongs to that strange land which holds malingers-