

Edinburgh Royal Infirmary from October, 1891, to October, 1898, only nine are recorded as having suffered from this disease alone; that is, only one in three thousand eight hundred and seventeen sought or was given treatment, or 0.025 per cent. Among the medical out patients, averaging at least nine thousand, five hundred a year, or about sixty-six thousand, I can find very few diagnoses entered of megrim. There can be no doubt that many of those applying for treatment or advice for other troubles, also suffered from sick headaches, but attached little importance to them, imagining them to be migraine. Hemicrania, sick headache, vertigo, megrim, are synonymous terms applied to a train of symptoms as common as they are peculiar, as distressing as they are common. Obviously of nervous causation, often independent of digestive disturbances, the symptoms are so intimately connected with those procedures common to gastric and hepatic upheavals, that they have come to be associated with these organs. But the sufferer from the severest forms of gastric dyspepsia, the yellowest victim of catarrhal jaundice, the subject of hepatic congestion or of duodenal antiperistalsis, who vomits bilious matters, or the obstinately constipated, do not necessarily undergo the torments of a megrim. *Per contra*, the individual who experiences migranous attacks may have no dyspepsia, no liver fault, no excessive obstipation. The first class suffer from the effects of local digestive disorders; the second from a more or less general affection of their nervous mechanism.

All that is necessary to assume is that some conditions of the circulating fluids of the individual organs, or of the nervous system as a whole, able to produce the special state of irritability and local paranoia of the nervous tissues concerned in migranous attacks, must be present. Attacks of migraine can be separated into one or more classes:

1. The accidental paroxysm occurring at rare intervals, irregularly, perhaps only once in a lifetime; an accompaniment of some acute dyspeptic or hepatic condition. This is truly a digestive sick headache.
2. The similar variety occasionally met with after severe exertion, especially on insufficient food and in the untrained. The acute form of metabolic migraine.
3. The common, one might almost say the family variety of migraine, due to chronic auto-intoxication and deficient exercise. The chronic form of metabolic migraine.
4. The functional or neurotic form, akin to epilepsy rather than to hysteria, possibly in part and to a lesser degree due to conditions similar to those in number three, and aroused by slighter stimuli.