

Mucous Membranes.—In some cases of neurasthenia the skin of the whole body is unnaturally dry; this is especially noticed in the hands, and may be accompanied with scaliness or scurfiness. Dryness of the joints may also exist.

Sweating Hands, with Redness.—Sweating of the hands is a frequent symptom of sexual debility, especially when caused by masturbation; but it can hardly be regarded as diagnostic of sexual exhaustion; nor would I, on that fact alone, decide that the genital system was at fault. Redness of the whole hand—erythema—sometimes attends palmar sweating, and in one of my cases the ears are as red as the hands.

Convulsive movements, especially on going to sleep.—Nervous sufferers, just as they are dropping off to sleep, are sometimes suddenly and painfully awakened by a violent spasmodic movement of an arm, or leg, or of the whole body, which appears without any warning, and is most likely to occur when preceded by unusual excitement or fatigue.

Atonic Voice.—The chief peculiarity of the neurasthenic voice is softness, faintness, want of courage and clearness of tone.

Oxalates and Urates in the Urine.—I have found this condition in the majority of neurasthenic patients.

Gaping and Yawning.—This system has also been noticed in organic disease of the brain.

Dilated Pupils.—Often associated with sexual disturbance, but sometimes exists where there is no such trouble. Abnormal activity of the pupils is a sign of neurasthenia.

Shooting pains resembling those of Ataxy.—Peculiarities of pain in the back. All parts of the back may be the seat of pain, although certain districts are more affected than others. There may be tenderness where there is no pain, and conversely pain where there is no tenderness.

Heaviness of the Loins and Limbs.—This is common in the myelasthenic form, and closely resembles rheumatism.

Varieties of Morbid Fear (phobia).—Among these are astraphobia—fear of lightning—which was described by me some years since. Agoraphobia—fear of places—has been described by Westphal, of Berlin. I have now under care a

patient afflicted with this morbid fear. He cannot go to a certain locality, but can go very near it, and beyond that point his own will is often powerless to urge him forward. He was first attacked while in a lithographic establishment working at his trade, and from that hour he has found it hard or actually impossible to enter any building devoted to that business. I have applied the term anthrophobia—fear of society—to that morbid apprehension of going into company, which is so often seen in the nervously exhausted, especially in those sexually exhausted. One of its many phases is inability to look in the faces of those with whom they are conversing.

Hopelessness is a common symptom.

Appearance of Youth.—Persons afflicted with neurasthenia very often, and I think in the majority of cases where the condition is constitutional and of long standing, look younger than their years.

THE DIAGNOSIS OF ADHESION OF THE PERICARDIUM.

In an article in the *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift* for December 20th, Dr. L. Riess calls attention to a comparatively rare, and as he believes, hitherto undescribed sign of adhesion of the pericardium; viz., the production of a metallic resonance of the heart's sounds (and of murmurs in disease of the valves) in the stomach. He relates three cases which have come under his observation in the Berlin General Hospital, in which the resonance was observed. In the first, a necropsy showed extensive adhesion of the pericardium over the diaphragm, as well as in other parts—there being, in fact, almost universal pericardial adhesion. The other two patients are still alive, and are subjects of valvular disease; and in both there is resonance of the murmurs through the stomach. Commenting on the three cases, he remarks that the inconstancy of the phenomenon does not militate against the explanation he gives of it; viz., that it arises from the close approximation of the heart and stomach in consequence of the pericardial adhesion. In the first case, the stomach was excessively distended; but this is not necessary