

due attention to functional disturbances, either when alone, or associated with organic disease.

In cases where hysterical symptoms are well marked, the method of treatment recommended by Weir Mitchell is of great value. In this the treatment consists mainly of isolation, massage, electricity and good feeding. One of the most important points in the treatment of these cases is the selection of the nurse, who is to take charge of the patient. It is absolutely necessary that the two make suitable companions. If the first nurse is not suitable, in that the two are unhappy together, she must be discharged, and the right one found. No nurse should resent being removed on such a charge for such a reason. No one gets on smoothly with every one they chance to meet. One sees the effects upon normal healthy people, of constant association with an uncongenial companion, but under such conditions the person can at least be relieved of the companionship for longer or shorter periods of the day. If the hysterical person is made to live with a nurse whom she does not care about, or even dislikes, she cannot escape from her, and the result will be disastrous.

I am in the habit of considering, as far as possible, the character of every one who comes into contact with hysterical patients, knowing full well that personal influence plays a most important part in their recovery. This is the natural and healthy form of suggestion.

Another important point in the treatment of these cases is that the medical man shall fully understand the nature of the patient's discomforts, so that he can meet him more than half way in being able to describe his ailment, when the patient seeks his aid. No hurried visit or signs of impatience in listening to the patient's story must ever be shown. A clearly expressed explanation of the cause and effects of the trouble will greatly aid the patient inasmuch as he will feel that his case is understood. A feeling of absolute confidence in the medical attendant is of unlimited value.

The quotations of eminent men given in the early part of my paper went to show that the mind in health has a powerful effect on the body; that impressions may increase, diminish or otherwise modify secretion, promoting or retarding recovery, and obliterating or exaggerating pain. Is it not reasonable to suppose that hysterical patients who, we have seen, are very impressionable and readily acted upon by suggestion, will respond to healthful surroundings and congenial companions, placing confidence in the medical adviser and in those who are attending upon them?