

intra-uterine life. The child may grow up, and go through life, without betraying its unstable nervous organism, if no undue strain, which would be an exciting factor, were applied.

Now, let us take up hysteria as one of the most common forms of functional diseases, and one, I think, that we will be able more clearly to understand when we look into the etiology and clinical symptoms manifested in these patients, rather than discuss particularly the etiology, and symptomatology, of neurasthenia. For, if we can obtain a clear perception of what hysteria is, then, other functional diseases will be simplified.

It is very hard indeed, if not impossible, at times, to differentiate between the neurasthenic and the hysterical patient, as both conditions are due to cerebral exhaustion. There are two typical descriptive forms which, in various instances, are sharply defined, and easily diagnosed. In the typical neurasthenic the marked insomnia, inability to concentrate the attention, defective memory, restlessness, fretfulness, irritability of temper, hypersensitiveness, discomforts about the head and neck, exaggeration of the reflexes, feeble pulse of low tension, and the constancy of the above symptoms, the length of time which the disease lasts as well as of the slow progress towards recovery, are diagnostic, as compared to hysteria, where we have marked psychical disturbance, and motor and sensory paralysis; the symptomatology being extremely variable in its nature and constancy.

The typical cases, as described in text-books, are of extremely rare occurrence, though in certain countries, particularly among the Latin races, the typical picture is occasionally met with. On the American continent it is indeed rare. Both diseases are of functional nature, both are congenital in origin, and both affect males and females in about the same proportion. The symptoms of neurasthenia are common in hysteria, and *vice versa*.

Of late years I have had under my care many of these cases, and my sympathies have gone out to the unfortunates who are afflicted with the malady. The layman, and to a large extent, our professional brethren, do not fully appreciate the magnitude of the disorder present in these cases. While gross diseases of the nervous system force themselves upon our attention, and are the cause of a great number of deaths, I do not think I am wrong in stating that the effects of ill health, suffering and incapacity produced by functional diseases are even more serious and far reaching.

Hysteria is defined by Mobius as a condition where ideas control the body, and produce morbid changes in its functions. In the normal