

one or two of Doctor Weir Mitchell's own cases, which I think show how the subjective sensations dominate the cases:

"In the winter of 1884, I was afflicted by a series of nervous ailments, brought on by overwork and overworry. Chief among these was a protracted and terrible insomnia, accompanied by the utmost depression of the spirits, and anxiety of mind. I became filled with the gloomiest anticipations of evil, and my system was strung up by slow degrees to such a high tension of physical and mental excitement, that the quietest and most soothing of friendly voices had no other effect upon me than to jar and irritate. Work was impossible; music, my one passion, intolerable; books became wearisome to my sight; and even a short walk in the open air brought with it such lassitude and exhaustion, that I soon grew to dislike the very thought of moving out of doors.

"But it was at night that the terrors of my condition manifested themselves. Then sleep forsook my eyes; a dull throbbing weight of pain encircled my head like a crown of thorns; nervous terrors shook me from head to foot; fragments of my own musical compositions hummed in my ears with wearying persistence—fragments that always left me in a state of distressed conjecture; for I never could remember how they ended, and I puzzled myself vainly over crotchets and quavers that never would consent to arrange themselves in any sort of finale."

The above, taken from a more or less subjective standpoint, might be said to represent, fairly typically, that type of neurotic to whom I would apply the term intensely intellectual, having as its etiological factor a too close application to mental work.

The following, from Mitchell's series, point out the effect which certain factors, of an entirely different nature to the above, may have in producing the condition:—

"M. L., æt. 58, the leader of the bar in a Western city, was forced to carry on the trial of a most important case, while his wife lay dangerously ill. From this time he began to find that he felt embarrassed when rising to speak, and that he was obliged to urinate always before speaking in court. The mere knowledge of these facts began to trouble him, and soon after he found that his emotions were less under control than they had been. At last, one day when about to sign his name, he found that his hand shook, because two gentlemen who were to act as witnesses were watching him. From this time he could no longer write, when overlooked, unless he made the most earnest effort. With these disabling conditions he began to fail in vigour and appetite, and to become excessively restless and irritable. Under fortifying treatment with long absence from home he became entirely well."