

hysterical, thereby weakening its action sufficient to account for the fainting fits of the hysterical patient.

In the more severe attacks of hystero-epilepsy, consciousness is completely lost; the convulsions have alternately a tonic and clonic character; the respiration is extremely slow and stertorous; opisthotonos is frequently present; the teeth are firmly set on clothing or bedding, etc.; the patient sometimes froths at the mouth and remains perfectly rigid for five or ten minutes; the thumbs are turned into or flexed upon the palms of the hands and clenched firmly with the fingers; the patient moans before going into a fit and complains of headache when she comes out of it; the countenance becomes distorted and presents a deadly palor; delirium and hallucinations often follow a fit.

#### DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF HYSTERO-EPILEPSY.

| <i>In Hystero.</i>                        | <i>In Epilepsy.</i>              |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. There is partial unconsciousness.      | Complete                         |
| 2. Globus hystericus.                     | Aura epileptica.                 |
| 3. Convulsions are uniform.               | One sided.                       |
| 4. Face flushed.                          | Face livid.                      |
| 5. Paroxysm long.                         | Paroxysm short.                  |
| 6. Paroxysm followed by wakefulness.      | Paroxysm followed by deep sleep. |
| 7. Generally during day.                  | During night.                    |
| 8. Glottis is open.                       | Glottis closed.                  |
| 9. Eyes closed.                           | Eyes half open, balls rolling.   |
| 10. No fever.                             | Elevated temperature.            |
| 11. Patient doesn't hurt herself.         | Patient injures self.            |
| 12. Cause emotional.                      | None.                            |
| 13. Onset is gradual.                     | Sudden.                          |
| 14. Patient screams during course.        | At onset only.                   |
| 15. Micturition, seldom ever.             | Frequent.                        |
| 16. Talking frequently.                   | Never.                           |
| 17. Termination induced by water applied. | Spontaneous.                     |

#### PROGNOSIS.

Generally favorable in hystero-epilepsy, but may result in exceptional cases seriously.

#### THE ATTACK.

First or Epileptoid Period—

- (a) Premonitory symptoms: (1) Tremor; (2) pupils contracted; (3) rapid winking of eyelids; (4) rapid respiration.