

in the trachea, the same earnest attempt to get something out of his throat was the result of pressing this nerve. The left ulnar, however, produced no such phenomenon, but instead the lad would begin to kick most violently. Pressure over the region of the carotid artery on one side, caused the body to be thrown into a wriggling kind of motion, with the head inclined towards the side pressed—on both sides the inevitable stertor in the breathing was produced. Pressure on the dorsal vertebrae would cause him to speak. I placed my hand on the occipital bone and instantly the half somersault was produced. Although lying on his back, this motion was quick and certain, the whole body being thrown forward, by placing the thumbs on or about the coronal suture, above the superciliary ridge, the pain seemed to be intense, uttering a kind of muttering groan, out of pity you instantly desist. Grasping the foot, and placing the thumb over the instep, he at once commenced to manipulate the dumb alphabet on his fingers, which under ordinary circumstances, he is entirely ignorant of. I enquired particularly about this, and was informed that when a very little fellow he saw a deaf and dumb lad performing, I tested his knowledge in every possible way, by repeating the letters made by him on my own fingers, but all seemed a blank.

This phenomenon so interested the little folks of the house, that while I was examining other parts, they would grasp Johnny's foot to see him make the letters. The cranial nerves, right and left, seemed to be alike impressible, and produced similar phenomena, but not so with the nerves of the extremities, the right having excess of sensibility. Perhaps the most interesting point of all is, that if you press on the squamo-parietal suture a little posteriorly, he recovers instantaneously, rubs his eyes, acts a little strangely and goes about his business as if nothing had happened. I might add that any two or more of these phenomena might be produced at the same time. The features during the paroxysm are much flushed, and the slightest touch on the cranium produced the results named.

I think, certainly no blame can be attached, if I can not place it under any specific name in Medical Nosology. Is it hysteria?—not in the popular sense of that term I think,—that it is some exalted state of the nervous system, I am free to admit, but the phenomena of hysteria, compared with this case, very naturally preclude the conclus-