

over trifles, suspiciousness, apprehensiveness, sensitiveness to remarks about their health, gloominess, discouragement, obsession by one idea, inaptitude for work—these are the most common characteristics of the mental state of those patients.

Judgment, on the whole, remains solid with neurasthenics; they are simply depressed, not devious.

Such, in résumé, are the chief symptoms of true neurasthenia—the kind of neurasthenia that we consider in the course of this paper.

We give, in passing, the history of a true neurasthenia which we observed. One will see at a glance that the patient had cause to become neurasthenic; false neurasthenics have no similar cause for their disease.

Rev. Father X., aged forty-three years, had suffered from neurasthenia for fifteen years.

We know all his family; his father is quite strong; his mother is arthritic. Patient had no sickness in his infancy.

The actual affection developed in 1886, at the end of several years of teaching and extraordinary intellectual overwork. At that time he taught in a classical college. At length his assiduous studies brought on a sort of nervous habit which manifested itself by excessive impressionability, unmotivated sadness and repeated weakness with insomnia and disquietude. He had besides, palpitation of the heart, painful digestion, and divers intestinal troubles.

He underwent treatment for three consecutive years without any marked improvement, and was thereupon advised to give up teaching and to devote himself to active ministry in the country. This change effected an amelioration of health for some time, but at the end of nine years the old disorders returned with vertigo, headaches. Insomnia and stomach troubles were more frequent than theretofore. He showed irregularities of character, and saw floating specks. He was sad, depressed and incapable of work. At times, he said, his heart seemed to cease beating, and again, it beat with extraordinary rapidity. Finally, he had vasomotor troubles, abundant perspirations, with frequent coldness of feet and hands. What makes his case singularly instructive is that, like most other neurasthenics, he had consulted many physicians and oculists. Divers treatments were prescribed for him,—com-