

vaginam, might be taken for the results of cystic disease; and if it happened to the unmarried, or to a widow, might give rise to groundless suspicions as to the patient's chastity. Hewitt has related one case, in which true hydatids, originally produced in the liver, had extended to the peritoneum, and were about to burst through the vagina at the time of death. This occurred in an unmarried woman. One or two other examples of true hydatids forming in the uterus are also recorded. A very interesting case is also related by Hewitt, in which undoubted acrophalocysts were expelled from the uterus of a patient who ultimately recovered. A careful examination of the cyst and its contents would show their true nature, as the echinococci heads, with their characteristic hooklets, would be discoverable by the microscope. McClintock has pointed out that it is probable that unfounded suspicions might arise from the fact of a patient expelling a mass of hydatids long after impregnation. He remarks that a so-called hydatiform mole may be retained in utero for many months or years, or a portion only may be expelled and the residue may throw out a fresh crop of vesicles, to be discharged on a future occasion."—*St. Louis Courier of Medicine*.

ON FUNCTIONAL AFFECTIONS OF THE SPINAL CORD.*

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A rule that ought never to be overlooked in the diagnosis of disease, is to examine every system of the human body in detail, in order that the mind may be able, by a process of exclusion, to concentrate the attention more directly on any part or parts that may be found to be in an abnormal condition. In this mental review, there is no system that requires more careful attention and consideration than the cerebro-spinal, for its functions so influence and more or less control every other organ and system in the body that, however perfect in themselves, they may be made to simulate a diseased state by the irregular action of the nerves. The heart, that is organically perfect may, by nervous influence, be suddenly made irregular in its action; lungs that are sound and healthy

may by the same influence, as in asthma, be so embarrassed that the individual has to pant for breath; the circulation may be vigorous and the blood physiologically perfect in all its proportions, when some sudden excitement to the vaso-motor nerves, causes the whole frame to quiver, and the cheeks that were fresh and ruddy, to become ashy pale; the peristaltic action of the intestines have always been normal until some sudden intelligence has shocked the great sympathetic, and either constipation or diarrhoea succeeds. Examples might be multiplied to show that every function of the body is more or less under the influence of the nervous system, and that disturbance of its integrity, whether structural or functional, is almost invariably followed by abnormal symptoms which very frequently manifest themselves in remote organs. It is the intention of this paper to apply more particularly to a class of functional diseases of the spinal cord, which often simulate organic lesions of the same structure—two classes of diseases it is very important should not be mistaken the one for the other; as of the various active remedies that are most frequently employed against the one, some might prove extremely injurious against the other. An error in this respect might prove discreditable to the physician and disastrous to the patient.

During the last few years, I have met in my own practice and in that of my partner, Dr. Turquand, many cases that we regarded as corresponding to the class of affections which Dr. Hammond, of New York, in his "Treatise on Nervous Diseases," calls "spinal anemia," and the results of treatment seemed to justify our diagnosis. Having these cases before me, I thought it a very easy task to prepare a paper on spinal affections. I had not proceeded far, however, in preparing material for that purpose, before I found difficulties looming up wherever I turned for information. C. B. Brown-Sequard, in his preface to twelve lectures delivered before the Royal College of Surgeons in England, says: "These lectures contain the results of the work of almost all my life, from the time I began to study medicine, twenty years ago, to the present, 1860;" and referring to diseases of the spinal cord, Erb of Heidelberg writing last year for "Ziemssen's Cyclopædia," says: "The diseases of the spinal cord have thus come to furnish a most attractive and interesting field for scientific

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