

that time, during the next ten years, there was a diarrheic tendency, and from that date (ten years ago), the vomiting continued without intermission till the month of August of the present year. Strange as this statement may seem, it is an actual fact that, in all this time, the patient never failed on one occasion to vomit after eating. Needless to say the amount of ejecta varied considerably, from a mere regurgitation to a total loss of the stomach-contents. During this time she became greatly emaciated and was debarred from any occupation with the exception of a little sewing now and then, and twice in this period she was confined to bed for a year at a time. There was never any evidence of gastric dilatation or organic disease of the stomach, kidneys, brain, or liver. As the efforts of over twenty physicians had proved fruitless she came to this city a year ago and remained during that time in the St. Alexis Hospital. Early in August I was asked by Dr. Kofron to examine the patient with a view to suggestive treatment. I found a tall thin woman of somewhat sad expression and in behavior quite the reverse of the traditional hysteric. I might here remark that I was unable at any time to find any of the stigmata of hysteria nor was there anything in her history suggestive of that state. After a little explanation she agreed to hypnotic treatment and readily passed, under the suggestion of sleep, into a lethargic state in which the necessary ideas were impressed. At the same time, as it was not possible for me to see her daily, I communicated the so-called hypnotic influence by suggestion to Dr. Shaw, then interne at the Hospital, with the assurance that he would be able to carry on the treatment in my absence. I also prescribed a belt to be worn over the stomach which, needless to say was merely a medium for suggestion. It consisted of a square of tinfoil sewn into a bandage. A milk-diet was prescribed with the positive statement that she would retain it, and from that day her cure may be said to have begun. During the remainder of her stay she vomited, I think, but twice, this on each occasion being due to unusual fatigue.

Within a little over six weeks she left for her home, not having vomited during that period. At the time of her last treatment I asked her if she could name anything that she could not digest or retain and she was unable to do so. A few days ago she wrote that she was at work and doing well.

The interesting fact in this case is the duration of the vomiting and its immediate response to treatment addressed directly to the mind. If time allowed it would be interesting to discuss the mechanism, so to speak, of a neurosis such as this. Many theories have been offered in explanation of phenomena of this kind, yet it would be decidedly rash to accept any one of them at present as final. Though yielding so readily to mental impression there is nothing more certain than that hysteric symptoms like the present are in no sense products of imagination. But ignorant as we are of the intimate mechanism of such results we cannot afford to ignore the abundant evidence we now possess of the value of so-called hypnotic treatment. It has been my good fortune within the last two years to successfully treat five cases of protracted vomiting by this method, in each of which other agencies have been employed without result. I need not emphasize the importance of a careful diagnosis before the employment of treatment of this kind. One must differentiate the organic from the so-called functional, but in cases of this kind coming under the latter heading I am convinced that psychotherapy in one form or other offers practically the only hope of cure.—Cleveland Journal of Medicine.

HUDSON BAY DISAPPEARING.

The rapid rise of the land about Hudson bay is said to be the most remarkable gradual upheaval of an extensive region ever known. Driftwood-covered beaches are now 20 to 60 or 70 feet above the water, new islands have appeared, and many channels and all the old harbors have become too shallow for ships. At the present rate, the shallow bay will disappear in a few centuries.