

diagnosis and treatment. These disorders have attracted a large share of attention since Brodie, in his *Lectures Illustrative of Certain Local Nervous Affections*, in 1837 pointed out their comparative frequency, although before his time they were neither unknown nor undescribed.

Various localized phenomena may, of course, be present in any victim of hysteria; but I wish here simply to call attention to those cases which have as a landmark some single local manifestation.

Many illustrations of local hysteria are to be found in one of the works of Laycock,† who discusses neuralgia of the breasts, and of other parts, sweatings and hemorrhages, vomiting, tympanites, dysphagia, hysterical hydrophobia, coughs, deafness, palpitations and pulsations, fits of sneezing, spasm of the glottis, alterations of the voice, hiccough, distortions of expression, pain in the left side, and morbid sensibility of the senses—truly a formidable list; but I believe, with Skey, that every part of the human body supplied with nerves, be they cerebral, spinal, or ganglionic, may become, under provocation, the seat of local symptoms so closely resembling those of the real disease to which that part of the body is liable, as to appear identical with it, and the resemblance to which is so perfect as to deceive the best of us. This author enumerates, as the more common seats of these affections, the female breast, the side of the trunk under the ribs, the whole spinal region from the atlas to the sacrum, any joint, but especially the knee, the stomach, the bladder, and the ovaries, the muscular system of the extremities, and the muscles of the larynx.

Paget advises that the name hysteria should be discarded, at least, from surgery, and proposes for the cases of unwilling imitation of organic disease, the English term "nervous mimicry," or, in untranslated Greek, *neuromimesis*.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell\* devotes several chapters of his *Lectures on Diseases of the Nervous System, Especially in Women*, to mimetic or local hysterical affections.

Some of the manifestations sometimes classed as local hysterical affections are simply downright frauds practiced by hysterical patients. The nature of others is doubtful. The erratic secretion of urine, for example, has frequently engaged the attention of writers on nervous diseases, and has awakened much controversy. Laycock's position seems to be that the symptom may be real, but usually is simulated.

American hysterics are certainly fastidious about this matter, as I have not yet met, in a considerable experience, with a single example of paruria erratica. It does not require much discernment

to see that most of the reported cases are absurd impostures. Charcot† refers, sarcastically, to an American physician who in 1828 gravely reported the case of a woman passing half a gallon of urinous fluid through the ear, in twenty-four hours, at the same time "spiriting out" a similar fluid by the navel. He also alludes to the case of Josephine Roulier, who, about 1810, attained great notoriety in France, but was discovered by Boyer to be a fraud. This patient vomited matter containing urea; and shortly after came a flow of urine from the navel, the ears, the eyes, the nipples, and finally, an evacuation of fecal matters from the mouth.

Hemorrhages from eyes, ears, nostrils, gums, stomach, bowels, etc., have often been observed among the hysterical; these cases sometimes being fraudulent, but sometimes genuine. In the Philadelphia Hospital is now a patient suffering from grave hysteria, vomiting of blood being a prominent symptom. I will detail the case from notes carefully prepared by the resident physician, Dr. Randall.

A. G., æt 19, a dressmaker, was admitted to the Hospital, July 23d. Her body was well formed and nourished. Her eyes were bright and had a peculiar nervous expression. She denied any venereal taint. On the night of her admission she began to spit or rather cough up blood of a bright hue, intermingled with froth, the coughing being accompanied by a peculiar gurgling sound in the throat. Her head was thrown violently from side to side, with convulsive tremors of the extremities, and seeming unconsciousness. On being threatened with a hot iron she became rational. On the following day her menstruation came on, she having previously menstruated on the 12th. Her lungs were carefully examined, but nothing could be discovered; neither could any abrasions of gums or throat be detected.

The hemorrhages were repeated on the 26th and 28th, and were apparently under control of the will, occurring more frequently during the attendance of the resident or attending physician.

On the evening of the 28th she became unconscious, passing into a cataleptoid state. Ice-cold water was applied to her head, and a galvanic current to her back, with the effect of restoring her to consciousness in a few minutes. The hemorrhages of a few ounces of blood have occurred nearly every day until the present time, and have not been visibly affected by hæmostatics which have been used. She has no signs of inflammation, ulceration, or other disease of the stomach.

She is very sensitive over the left ovary, but complains of pain in no other region. Very little food is retained, and yet she does not emaciate. On the night of August 10th she bled profusely from the nose, and at the same time blood was coughed up. In a few minutes she passed into a trance,

\* Clinical Lectures on the Nervous Mimicry of Organic Disease. By Sir James Paget, Bart., F.R.S. Lancet, for October, November and December, 1873.

† A Treatise on the Nervous Diseases of Women. By Thomas Laycock, M.D. London, 1840.

\* Lectures on Diseases of the Nervous System, Especially in Women. By S. Weir Mitchell, M.D. Philadelphia; Henry C. Lea's Son & Co., 1881.

† Lectures on Diseases of the Nervous System, delivered at La Sapétière. Translated by Geo. Sigerson, M.D. Philadelphia, H. C. Lea, 1879.