

HYPERTHYROIDISM.*

By DR. BREFNEY O'REILLY, TORONTO.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen;—

The case which I have the honor to present to you this evening is one representative of a type which I think, has, up to the present, hardly received the attention which is its due. Its frequent occurrence and the difficulties encountered in both diagnosis and treatment are my excuses for bringing it to your notice, in the hope that, in the discussion, light may be thrown on the subject by some of the senior members present.

Gertrude B., age 20, unmarried, factory worker; patient in St. Michael's Hospital.

Complaint.—Feeling of dizziness, "nervousness," weakness, palpitation of the heart and vertical cephalalgia. Duration of present attack about a month.

Family History.—Father dead, age 40—consumption. Mother living and well, age 55. Three brothers, living and well. Two sisters living: one has lung trouble. Father had two brothers and one sister who died of T. B. Mother had one sister who died of T. B.

Personal History.—Patient was born in Canada, lived on a farm and worked hard. As a child, had measles, whooping-cough, chicken pox and scarlet fever. When 13, had rheumatism and was in bed for two months (only in the ankles, had smothering spells, and says she had "rheumatism of the heart"). At 15, had pleurisy. Patient says her sanitary surroundings have always been good. She went to school till she was 14. Lately, her occupation has not been difficult. It consists in packing yeast; works 9 hours a day, all noon hour, and takes no lunch.

Present.—In June of 1905, while raking up the yard one hot, sunny day, patient became faint and sick, and had to remain in bed for a few days. Some days later, when walking along the railway track, she stepped aside to avoid a passing train, and, missing her footing, rolled down a 20-foot embankment. She was unconscious for a short time, but later managed to reach her home; felt poorly for a few days, but otherwise experienced no ill effects.

On July 2, 1905, had her first convulsive attack, after sitting in the sun all afternoon at the races. That evening, while at the hotel, she fell forward on her face, but did not lose conscious-

* Presented at the February meeting of the Medical Section of the Academy of Medicine, Toronto.