

SYMPTOMS.

(1) Increased psychical irritability and peevishness with which hyperæsthesias and conditions of excitement in the region of the different and exaggerated reflex phenomena are associated.

(2) Anæsthesias, paralyses and contractions.

(3) Disorders of sensibility.

Hyperæsthesia is a predominating symptom which may be purely psychical. The patient is annoyed by visionary hallucinations and by an excited sense of hearing. The sense of taste is abnormal, hence the craving for chalk, coal, etc. The sense of smell is deranged, hence the decided inclination for such repellant odors as assafoetida, etc. Some have a hyperæsthetic sense of touch and temperature. Pains in the skin assume the character of neuralgia. Headache is seldom absent in the hysterio-epileptic, especially that known as "clavis hystericus"—a boring pain on the top of the head. Hyperæsthesia of the mucous membrane of the larynx is sometimes so powerfully developed that any current of air somewhat colder than usual or slight admixture of dust in the air inhaled produces severe pain and attacks of coughing. Pains and abnormal sensations occur in the region of the throat (globus hystericus); painful affections in the region of the mammary gland simulates neuralgia, etc.; an excited condition of the nerves of the heart simulates angina pectoris; the region of the abdomen becomes at times so hyperæsthetic that the slightest pressure on examination causes the greatest pain (apparently); some hysterical patients continually have a feeling of a foreign body in the stomach, and simple cardialgias are of frequent occurrence, which, when taken with the persistent vomiting likewise often present, may lead to the erroneous diagnosis of round ulcer of the stomach. Attention is frequently drawn to painful affections of the bladder and urethra.

The back of an hysterical patient is the seat of frequent pains, spontaneous and produced by pressure on the vertebrae and their surroundings, and, according to Brodie, the hip and knee joints are the joints most frequently affected—especially in women in the higher classes of society, of which he says four-fifths suffer from hysteria and nothing else. Some patients aver that they distinctly feel the womb pass upward to the stomach and then arrive at the throat, a declaration which has constituted the oldest theory of hysteria. Many are seized with spasmodic movements in the organs of respiration—singultus, convulsive laughter and weeping. Changes in the power and frequency of the heart's action are met with in the