

Again, gastric disturbance, especially in children, can frequently give rise to eye symptoms, generally of a phlyctenular nature,—insufficient or improper feeding, a correction of which will have more to do with effecting a cure than local treatment.

Reflex phenomena with the sexual organs as the cause are very common, especially among females. The number of symptoms are so numerous that they would be sufficient to form the subject of a long paper. Especially do the symptoms appear at puberty and the menopause.

I have seen dysmenorrhœa set up a most persistent form of episcleritis, also phlyctenular mischief; iritis has also been reported. Amenorrhœa has been followed by ocular hemorrhages, iritis, optic neuritis, etc. Pregnancy may set up paralysis of accommodation. In fact the possible lesions are legion.

Leaving the purely reflex, we come to those symptoms due to a depressed state of the nervous trophic system. Following certain diseases and their attendant weakness, we have frequently ulcers of the cornea. When there is merely an irritable state existing, we see phlyctenulæ often develop, the irritable state of the corneal nerves causing a hyperplasia of the tissue elements, which, instead of forming healthy corneal tissue, break down. If the stage of irritability has been passed, the depression stage ensues, and we get the large necrotic ulcers of the cornea—neuroparalytic—generally of a very slight inflammatory nature, the necrosis partaking of the nature of a bedsore. These may proceed from bad to worse, or may hang fire and remain indolent, the tissue elements lacking reparative power.

The other nerve lesions setting up eye symptoms, such as encephalic tumors, are generally accompanied by changes in the nerve and retina. These I will not touch on beyond mentioning the pupillary symptoms.

So now for a few words on the semicology of the pupil. As we all know the healthy pupil reacts to light and in accommodation.

1st, When there is complete cessation of cerebral activity, the pupils are in a state of stable mydriasis, as in the state of shock or in laceration of the brain.