

tually induces symptoms and simulates disease, the symptoms getting beyond the patient's control. Such a patient, already emotional, conceives the idea of pain or stiffness, and in time the pain is actually felt or contracture really appears.

How frequently do we see patients, who having experienced a slight neuralgia pain in the left inframammary region, at first feared that it might be due to disease of the heart and later persuaded themselves that they were victims of incurable cardiac disease, suffering constant misery and apprehension, even though assured by their physician that the suspected organ was perfectly normal. Perhaps you will say this is hypochondriasis, but where do you draw the line between the two conditions? Hysterical patients are not only irritable, but they are very emotional, now breaking out into immoderate laughter, again crying and sobbing bitterly, often passing from one state to the other in a few moments. These emotional disturbances may be paroxysmal and are usually induced by the most trifling causes.

Another symptom which is very common and is really psychic is the "globus hystericus," which is felt as a ball or lump rising from the sternal region into the throat, or as if something were gripping the throat. This may be experienced even in the non-hysterical when suddenly frightened, and is often described as the heart leaping into the mouth.

Another remarkable condition occasionally seen is that known as "trance," which usually follows convulsive attacks and is due to inhibition of function of the higher centres. Even cataleptic conditions are sometimes met with in which there is a peculiar plastic rigidity of the muscles, the limbs retaining the position in which they are placed. Some cases approach, others cross the border line of insanity, many writers recognizing hysterical insanity as a distinct mental disease. Spitzka speaks of chronic hysterical insanity as an intensified hysteria. It may take the form of hysterical melancholia, mania or mono-mania, some cases resembling the latter very closely in

the fixity of their ideas regarding themselves and in their developing suspicion regarding others. In a severe hysterical fit with frenzy the patient is temporarily insane. Delusions and hallucinations may even be present.

There may be derangement of all the sensations, general and special. This may be manifested in exaggeration which is sometimes real, as when sounds are heard which are inaudible to others and objects seen which are invisible to others, or disagreeable odors perceived by the hyper-acute sense of smell. Morbid taste is also a frequent symptom. Hyperæsthesia is sometimes general, but is often limited to certain spots or areas which may be clearly defined. It is often unilateral and superficial, but may again be deep-seated, as over the ovaries, and sometimes over the tender spots causes pain and often a sense of faintness and globus hystericus or even convulsions. These spots are Richer's "hystero-genetic zones," and the localities in which they are most frequently seen are the left ovarian region, the spines, and of these especially the dorsal, the left inframammary region and various spots on the abdomen. This extreme sensitiveness is occasionally felt all over the abdomen, simulating peritonitis, and may even be present all over the body. Pain in the left inframammary region is a common symptom, while more frequent still is pain in the vertical region of the head, often severe like a nail being driven in—the "clavus hystericus."

Vague sensations of numbness are among the commonest sensory manifestations. These are usually unilateral and are very frequent in the tongue, especially at the menopause. The so-called nervous chills or shiverings are very common. Pain is sometimes felt in the joints with vasomotor swelling simulating actual arthritic disease.

Anesthesia is very common, though often unnoticed by the patient, and is one of the most interesting and diagnostic features of the disease. It is usually unilateral and may affect the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth and palate, the latter being of