

proportion as cerebral influence is in abeyance ; and further we notice that the longer this state exists so much the more difficult is it to regain cerebral control over reflex spinal movements. Many instances of this latter fact have been witnessed in the hysterio-epileptic patient already alluded to. Thus while examining the eye with the ophthalmoscope I have asked her to look down, up, &c. At times this has been done with ease, while at others no apparent efforts on her part could overcome the ataxia due to the lack of cerebral force over reflex spinal action. Again the hyper-excitability of afferent sensory nerves induced by this condition is in its effects readily appreciated. Let us suppose a patient hypnotized and sleeping quietly, the whole muscular system being apparently relaxed. Here we find that the sensibility is so great that very slight friction along the course of any nerve causes tonic contractures of the corresponding muscles supplied by its branches to take place. This I have frequently witnessed in sets of muscles in all parts of the body. What the pathological condition is, inducing this state is in some instances difficult to explain ; but a curious experiment which I had the good fortune to witness in M. Charcot's laboratory would seem to throw some light upon the subject. There was present a patient, very healthy-looking, well developed, of fair complexion, and of sanguine temperament, but one of peculiarly emotional tendencies. The experiment upon her was as follows : She, having been first hypnotized, was sleeping peacefully while sitting in her chair. An assistant now bandaged the right arm, and having tied it above the bandage showed it to be anaemic. Now by slight pressure upon the ulnar nerve at the elbow the form of contracture *en griffe* was set up in the corresponding fingers of that side. A large magnet was then placed in contact with the left arm when, wonderful to relate, there followed a slight muscular tremor in the muscles of the left arm, and thereafter the same contractures took place in the muscles of that hand, the contractures on the right side being correspondingly relaxed at the same time, but by irritation were again induced, there being contractures thus present in both at once. I did not hear M. Charcot's theory as to the causation of this phenomenon, but it seems to me that we have a right to assume that :—(1) anaemia of the right arm made it very irritable and sensible of impressions ; (2) when the cerebrum was even slightly impressed it set up motor reflex action and contractions took place ; (3) and in the third, and