# ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## CASES ILLUSTRATING RATIONAL TREATMENT OF HYSTERIA WITHOUT MINUTE PSYCHO-ANALYSIS.*

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BY hysteria, is not signified general emotionalism or nervous excitement, nor will consideration be given to cases of simulation, or querulous psychosis. And, of course, psychasthenia and neurasthenia, as well as lower neurone disorders, will not enter into the discussion.

It is not the form or aspect of the symptom which entitles it to the designation hysterical.

The criterion of hysteria is its genesis; for the methods of psychopathology do not differ from those of somatopathology in seeking an etiological classification.

Babinski has brught order from chaos by limiting the term hysteria to disorders generated by suggestion, and excluding all other disorders from this group. The justification of this classification ha been given at length elsewhere, so I shall not discuss it here. I have selected from my records a series of cases which seem best to illustrate how success is to be attained in treating hysteria, for they show how a thorough appreciation of the part played by suggestion in etiology leads to a scientific therapeusis.

In this therapeusis, suggestion plays only an insignificatn part; indeed some of the cases illustrate to the failure of suggestion as against the successs of enlightenment, rational persuasion and reeducation of the patient's erroneous attitude of mind; these are the means of giving the patient a relief which is likely to be permanent; whereas the crude *legere de main* constituted by most suggestive measures, even if successful in removing a symptom, only accentuate a patient's liability to relapse by further increasing the suggestibility.

For convenience I have divided the cases into three types:

A. Where the causative suggestion is found to originate in some organic disease. This is the commonest type and the most practically important because the hysteria often creates far more functional disability than does the disease which suggests it.

B. Cases in which the causative suggestion was not discovered because of insufficient psychoanalysis; but in which the secondary effects

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