

stomach; this amounted to starvation with extreme emaciation, slow circulation with coldness of the skin and extremities. With this the repeated contention of the patient that she was not ill, the continued and sustained exertion, and desire to be doing something which could only be done by moving about amounting to "fussiness" were prominent.

Sir Wm. Gull, after shortly describing his case adds: "This story is in fine an illustration of most of those cases, perversions of the 'ego' being the cause and determining the course of the malady. As part of the pathological history it is curious to note as I did in my first paper the persistent wish to be on the move though the emaciation was so great and the nutritive functions at an extreme ebb."

He says the disease consists in a failure of the gastric branches of the pneumo-gastric nerves and objects to the former name of "anorexia hysterica" as misleading and departs from the usual theory that uterine irritation is the case. This is why Dr. Gull invented a new name, and called the disease "Anorexia Nervosa." The appropriateness of this name has been disputed as signifying only a symptom which is most prominent. Most of those who describe such cases for they are not rare, say nothing about the menstruation but Playfair says that suppression is invariable when the subject is a female; is the last symptom to be righted and persists years after full nutrition is restored.

While Dr. Gull speaks of it being a perversion of the "ego" others refer to a certain mental perversion and moral obliquity.

I have seen such evidences but attributed it rather to the ill-fed cerebrum, and rather a consequence than a cause. It seems to me probable that the disease co-exists with that condition of a part of the nervous system known as neurasthenia, or nervous prostration, although there is

a very important point of difference exhibited in the strong will power and continuous activity of the case I have described, in contra distinction to the state of excessive want of energy and weariness of neurasthenia.

The inutility of drugs in the treatment of the disorder is evident, and the only course that is recommended as successful is that introduced by Weir Mitchell and Playfair for neurasthenia, that is isolation from friends forced feeding and massage.

This is a course which I was unable to carry out in the case described.

It is unfortunate but not perhaps curious that another younger member of the same family has followed the same course of the disorder with some variations of symptoms with others added such as distinct spinal irritation aphonia, and while there is not the same desire or power to move about, but in place of that much depression but the other characteristic symptoms are present especially a very slow pulse and coldness of body.

There is little mention of this disorder in the books, at least as far as my limited time and opportunity allowed me to discover, but Dr. Gull's paper in 1873 to the clinical society, London, excited much interest which has at different times since been aroused "there being much discussion" in the journals about it.

That may be some excuse for me taking up your time this evening with a subject which may seem to many of you as only one of that most common and fashionable of all complaints indigestion.

EFFECT OF CERTAIN DRUGS ON EXCRETION OF UREA, &c.

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The next observations that I wish to draw your attention to are on the