

The various obsessions or anxieties are typical of cerebral neurasthenia, especially claustrophobia and agorophobia: Many other phobias may be present.

Claustrophobia is the fear of being shut up in a church, theatre, etc. This gives rise frequently to visceral sensations, and associated with it may be oppression of the chest, panting or heart constraint or a disposition to diarrhœa, known as "church diarrhœa."

Agorophobia, or the fear of an open space. This is a most peculiar condition and evidences itself when the patient comes into an open space. He begins to have weakness at the knees and he trembles all over and in fact seems to be almost panic stricken.

Clifford Albutt cites several of these cases but he is at a loss to account for the causation. He thinks that perhaps the origin is in some disorder of adaptation of the ocular muscles.

Many other phobias or "fears" are cited by various authors, but I will not detail them here.

Vertigo is a common symptom of neurasthenia.

Hyperacusis, an overacute sense of hearing is also a common symptom. Alterations in taste and smell are frequently present.

Photophobia or a dread and dislike of light is sometimes present.

Certain eye symptoms are important and should certainly be made note of. An aching or weariness of the eye balls especially after reading and muscæ volitantes or floating spots are present.

The condition known as neurasthenic asthenopia is very frequently present. These are the more prominent symptoms of the cerebral type and now I pass on to the spinal type.

*The Spinal Type:*—The chief feature of this form are weariness of the legs and pains in the back, these patients are always weak and good for nothing in body. The pains in the back are dull, diffused aches, or an acute pain with tenderness, especially in certain spots in the upper dorsal spines, between the shoulders, or again across the pelvis; here the tenderness being in the lower lumbar spines or in the sacro-iliac synchondroses. This latter site is especially frequent in traumatic cases.

There are various perverted sensations of which these patients complain:—of tingling in the legs, formication or creeping sensations and, remarkably, of coldness, even of icy coldness, as if he had been standing in cold water. The limbs go to sleep easily. Even the tongue is not infrequently the seat of numb sensations and so sometimes fears of cancer arise. The gait may be, and often is, very slow and feeble and creeping, but is never ataxic or paralytic, except in the hemiplegic form or associated with hysteria. The reflexes in neurasthenia are never absent but are generally prone to excess.