

REMARKS ON THE CUTANEOUS AFFECTIONS OBSERVED IN HYSTERICAL PATIENTS.*

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Hysteria is a neurosis, characterized by mental stigmata, usually of a moral and emotional character, as well as by an almost infinite number of symptoms, the result of nervous disturbances of function of the various organs and systems of the body. These disturbances may be of motor, vasomotor, sensory, trophic, or secretory origin, so that in the symptomatology of hysteria of any organ, one may find symptoms referable to disturbed functions of every nerve tissue taking part in the life process of that organ, and further, the more dependant the nerve tissue upon the psychic centres for its functioning power, the more likely its functions to be disturbed in hysteria.

The skin, on account of its exposed position, offers an excellent opportunity for observing the functioning conditions of the various nerve tissues. In addition, it gives an hysterical individual an opportunity for simulating disease by the production of feigned eruptions, and thus put in play the peculiar dissembling character and morbid craving for sympathy which is always present to a greater or smaller degree in all hysterical persons.

These feigned eruptions, when produced with no ulterior motive, should be looked upon as the outcome of defects of character, and, in a way, should be considered as a manifestation of hysteria.

The cutaneous affections seen in hysteria, and due to the mental condition and functional disturbances of this disease, I have, therefore, classified as follows :

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| 1. <i>Feigned Eruptions.</i> | 4. <i>Secretory Neuroses :</i> |
| 2. <i>Sensory Neuroses :</i> | (a) Hyperhydrosis. |
| (a) Hyperesthesia. | (b) Anhydrosis. |
| (b) Dermatalgia. | (c) Hematohydrosis. |
| (c) Pruritus. | (d) Uridrosis. |
| (d) Paresthesia. | |
| (e) Anesthesia. | 5. <i>Trophoneuroses :</i> |
| 3. <i>Vasomotor Neuroses :</i> | (a) Alopecia. |
| (a) Anemias. | (b) Atrophy and dystrophy of nails. |
| (b) Asphyxia (Raynaud's Disease). | |
| (c) Gangrene | 6. <i>Motor Neuroses :</i> |
| (d) Erythemas. | (a) Cutis anserina, etc. |
| (e) Urticaria (including urticaria factitia). | |
| (f) Edemas. | |
| (g) Purpuras. | |

* Read at Annual Meeting of Ontario Medical Asso., Toronto. June, 1905.