

the ages given being those where the symptoms first appeared :

Age . . .	10	20	30	40	50	60
No. of cases	8	50	28	10	3	1

From this it will be observed that fifty per cent. of all cases first presented symptoms between the ages of ten and twenty, more than seventy-five per cent. between the ages of ten and thirty and only one percent. over fifty. Savill of London relates a case of hysterical aphonia in a woman of 71.

Heredity plays an important part in the etiology of this affection. There may or may not be a direct history, but in the great majority of all hysterical cases there can be discovered some inherited neurotic tendency which may have manifested itself in such diseases as epilepsy, chorea, insanity, alcoholism, etc. Of the causes in the individual these may be mental or physical.

Severe mental strain, injudicious management of growing girls, and especially vicious moral influences, may increase the inherent predisposition and excite the disease: an attack is frequently precipitated by some emotional influence, as a sudden alarm or fright or some dire calamity, many people exhibiting some of the minor manifestations of the disease when laboring under strong emotion.

In many cases there is present some defect in the general health, as anemia, disturbed functions in various organs or debility incident to some exhausting disease. Disease of the generative organs is present in perhaps half the cases, but this serves only to depress the nervous system and cannot be said to be the cause, as the organic defects are often but trifling and the hysterical symptoms frequently persist after the removal of the local trouble. Ovarian tenderness is frequently but not always present, and is not confined to hysterics.

Hysterical symptoms are frequently much more marked during menstruation and the menopause, owing to the disturbing influences of these conditions upon the nervous system. Sexual excitement acts in a similar manner. Hysterical symptoms not uncommonly appear in the predisposed during the course of some general or local disease, and,

simulating some grave organic disease of the nervous system, give rise to considerable anxiety on the part of the physician until he is able to thoroughly satisfy himself as to the true nature of the case.

Local diseases may set up hysterical symptoms, as, for example, an acute laryngeal catarrh may excite an attack of hysterical aphonia of great obstancy and persistence.

Neurotic symptoms frequently follow an injury producing a clinical picture that calls for all the skill of the surgeon to enable him to read correctly. Again, what is perhaps the most perplexing of all is the very frequent association of hysterical symptoms with other nervous diseases, both functional and organic, such as epilepsy, cerebral tumor, hemiplegia and various diseases of the spinal cord, giving rise to a condition so complicated as perhaps to render a diagnosis impossible. As Weir Mitchell says, "The symptoms of real disease are painted on a hysterical background." It is interesting to note that this disorder may be spread by irritation, producing the so-called hysterical epidemic, the disease usually in these cases taking on the convulsive type. Numerous instances of such epidemics have been recorded, the outbreaks generally occurring in schools, workshops and certain religious conventions where emotional excitement is at a premium.

Many and variable as are the symptoms of hysteria, they will be found to fall within one of the following groupes, viz.: psychic, sensory, motor, secretory and vaso-motor.

Even in the earliest stages of the disease patients usually exhibit a marked degree of irritability, are sensitive to little troubles, and trifles cause great annoyance. They lose their self-control and are unable to free themselves from a condition of depression that may almost amount to melancholia. Self consciousness rules the patient's thoughts and actions, and her description of even her slightest ailments is greatly exaggerated: she is always seriously ill. A hysterical patient loves an appreciative companion or audience, and sympathy serves only to encourage her to yield to, rather than resist her morbid tendencies, until she ac-