

discussion of the medical treatment or of the use of massage and electricity in this affection, but I would like to mention the decidedly good results of hydrotherapy when used in conjunction with these measures. In conclusion, neurasthenic patients often state that they have been given this advice "Now just believe you are all right and there will be nothing the matter with you." There are undoubtedly neurasthenic patients who exaggerate their ills, but I am convinced that these are much fewer than is generally supposed, and that when we can learn the patient's character in the past, further study of these subjective symptoms will often prove their reality. Although we cannot percuss or palpate to demonstrate the exactness of the descriptions given by these patients, we can impartially estimate the truth of their assertions, and after careful consideration of the symptoms, save them by proper medical treatment from what, in some cases at least, would have resulted in irreparable disaster.

[Since writing the above I have observed a passage in R v Krafft-Ebing's work on "*Arbeiten aus dem Gesamtgebiet der Psychiatrie und Neuropathologie*" referring to neurasthenia in its relation to mental disease. The following is a translation of the passage referred to. He says "it is astonishing that so little notice has hitherto been given in medical literature to the interesting, and on account of their frequency practically important, transitory Psychoses of the Neurasthenic".]



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