

To have a healthy working mind we must have the sensory apparatus working in a normal condition. If we have a sensory system that is debilitated from any cause, the mental centres will not be long in showing the influence of the disturbance. How often have we seen marked instances of that in cases of melancholia, that, when diligently inquired into, afforded a history of oft repeated severe nerve storms. If we could understand the true etiology of the minor nerve disturbances that so often receive slight recognition in the earlier stages of melancholia, and remove the cause we would accomplish much, that we must now confess, is left until the storm is too fully developed. We know that many of these sensory symptoms are often transitory, and not of grave significance. Hence, probably, the reason why they are regarded as slight and trivial ailments. We so commonly meet with cases of melancholia in which our patients, sometimes seemingly well-nourished, have been subject at first to headaches, weary, painful feelings in the back of the neck and down the upper portion of the spine when wearied with little exertion. These sensory symptoms have continued until terminating in mental depression. Then when the mental trouble is pronounced the bodily pain seems to have passed off, only to return, in some instances, when the convalescence is established. Indeed the recurrence of the sensory symptoms comes to us as a pleasing signal of the light breaking in and scattering the clouds of depression. The melancholia, which is sometimes a sequela of influenza, is often marked in the early stages by these symptoms of long-continued headaches, or other sensory disturbances. If we could explain their exact nature, and their relationship to the mental symptoms which so often follow them, much would be accomplished in a field that to me is very inviting and interesting. If we are to accept these disturbances as due to toxic influences, is the toxemia merely a secondary and intermediate stage and not the real primary cause? If so, we must look beyond the toxemia to some great first cause. The uric acid theory does not afford us a satisfactory basis on which to account for all these manifestations. We no longer explain headaches and similar disturbances of the sensory apparatus as vaso-motor in origin, but are rather inclined for the real cause to attribute them to a failure of nutritive and dynamic energizing of the higher cortical cells. There is probably given to each neuron an innate power of building up its stores of potential energy (anabolism), and of liberating these stores in a dynamic form (katabolism), these two powers being balanced so that the neuron shall neither become, as it were, too full nor too empty. These powers in the sensory neurons are influenced, and probably regulated to a great extent from without by much action, by the innumerable and constant afferent impressions from the skin and viscera, by direct interference through other