

with the result that the normal equilibrium and mutual control is upset, and this is followed by symptoms of explosiveness, and a tendency to exhaustion in the central nervous system, clinically expressed by psychical, motor and sensory symptoms.

We are all aware of the fact that when a powerful dray horse is drawing a load up a steep incline, it will pull with a more or less steady force till it reaches the top, while another horse of less muscular build, though it may be of more highly bred character, in drawing the load begins to feel, when but half way up the hill, that it is too heavy for him. Being of a willing disposition he will make vain attempts to reach the top, as shown by his suddenly throwing himself into his collar every now and again, in this manner producing spasmodic attempts to reach the top. The jerkings may finally cause a break down, due to the giving way of some part of the harness. In the same way, nervous patients who are, as a rule, ambitious and anxious to hold their social and other positions in the world suffer from the "ups and downs" in their physical condition, in trying to carry this out. Their attempts to keep up with their competitors sometimes results disastrously. As already pointed out, the exhaustion of some regions in the brain entails exhaustion upon others which have not been in activity at the same time.

Again, in hysteria some centres retain their usual activity, while others are inactive. It is usual, however, for the one area to affect the whole system, and this goes to show that the various nerve centres draw their force from a common supply. If the supply of energy is constant in its production, that would mean constant supply in all the centres. These centres are bound together so as to produce physiological equilibrium, and constant power would imply constant control of one by the other.

The hysterical brain shows no anatomical alterations to distinguish it from the healthy one. The difference is physiological. It is more excitable, the nerve discharge being violent, and more easily produced, less under control. The nerve force ebbs and flows along the centres in such a way that certain parts are left high and dry, so to say, while others are flooded. These conditions are all liable to rapid fluctuations, so that the symptoms appear and disappear in a remarkable manner.

Those who wish to go more fully into this subject should read the Presidential Address, given by Dr. Sharkey, before the Neurological Society of the United Kingdom, February, 1904, on the above subject.

*Treatment.* In discussing the treatment I shall simply give you a rapid sketch of the outline, dwelling on some parts more than others.