

to them. They must be caused by the idea, uncontrolled, giving rise to the same spasm. These are cases of ideational automatism and are of cortical origin.

We are all accustomed to observe how readily a normal person is affected by seeing another person yawning, though it may occur in the early morning, when he is in full vigour. A golf player is also aware of how readily he is influenced by the mistakes of his opponent. These influences are, at times, impossible to control. So again, one can easily understand how an excitable, nervous system like that which is present in the hysterical subject would be apt to acquire a set of conditions which he would be powerless to overcome.

Here let us consider for a moment what are the symptoms of exhaustion in the normal individual. Take, as an instance, a doctor who, through stress of work, has not been in bed for 50 hours. If at the end of that period he be placed under examination, you will find that his memory is defective, and that he is irritable, the small discomforts which he would not notice in his normal state, now becoming serious annoyances. Are you to scold him because his memory is not good, and he is irritable and imaginative? Will it do him good? Certainly not. So we can fully understand how a patient suffering from hysteria or neurasthenia should not be scoffed at or depreciated in any way on account of his deficiencies, both are in the same condition and suffering from nerve exhaustion, the former being mental exhaustion from insufficient repose, the latter the result of congenital deficiency.

Now, let us see what are the motor and sensory disabilities present in these cases of hysteria. Before doing so, let me rapidly and briefly sketch the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the central nervous system.

The central nervous system is made up of neurones, motor and sensory; the motor for motion, the sensory for conveying sensation. In addition to these there are masses of neurones which are especially developed and constituted. These are the neurones of the higher mental centres.

Each neurone consists of a cell body and processes. The dendrites are processes which collect impressions, and carry them to the cell body. The axones are the processes which convey the impulses from the cell bodies. Generally speaking, the axone is a very long process, sometimes traversing the distance of half one's body, while the dendrites are small, and probably only twice the circumference of the cell body. Therefore they are microscopic in character, requiring a medium power for their detection. The cell body is the seat of their vital functions.