

"jerks" first appeared at a sacramental meeting in East Tennessee, where several hundred people of both sexes were seized with this convulsive movement. The Rev. B. W. Stone has left a vivid description of it. Sometimes, he says, the subject was affected in a single member of his body, but in others the spasm was universal. When the head alone was affected it would be jerked from side to side so quickly that the features of the face could not be distinguished. When the whole system was affected, he continues, "I have seen the person stand in one place and jerk backward and forward in quick succession, the head nearly touching the floor behind and before. All classes, saints and sinners, the strong as well as the weak, were thus affected. I have seen some wicked persons thus affected, and all the time cursing the jerks while they were thrown to the earth with violence." The first form in which these spasmodic movements made their appearance was that of a simple jerking of the arms from the elbow down. When they involved the entire body they were described as being most distressing to watch. The head was thrown backward and forward with a rapidity that alarmed the spectators, causing the hair, if it were long, to crack and snap like the lash of a whip. The Rev. Richard McNemar gives the following account of a case of jerks as being a characteristic type of the malady as it prevailed: "A young man of a pious family, the son of a tanner, feigned sickness one Sunday morning to