
IV. Disturbances of the nervous system, two divisions:—

(a) Those with anatomical brain lesions.

(b) The so-called functional nervous diseases.

The first class includes examples of reduction of the brain cavity and increased pressure in the cranium, as menengitis, chronic hydrocephalus and brain tumors beginning with disturbed sleep and end in coma.

The second class includes nervous disturbances due to rachitis, laryngismus stridulus, tetanie, nightly crying out (night terrors), sonambulism, epilepsy, nocturina, psychopathic conditions or neurasthenia leading to headache and nervous unrest, masturbation which may begin at very early age. The author blames parents for not inculcating in their children good habits, governed by regular discipline in eating and hours of sleeping.

Treatment.—It is necessary to get a detailed history of the child and all its habits, temperament, tasks and nourishment. Carefully examine for physical defects. Remove adenoids or tonsils and dress all traumata. Regulate method of living, work and feeding if it is indicated. Put the child in a quiet dark room at proper hour, and by holding hand and singing to it, induce sleep, by a sort of suggestive effect; a night lamp is advisable for those who sleep restlessly or are sleep-walkers. Warm baths in the evening are indicated for some restless children, duration of bath 5 to 6 minutes. Moist band on the body at night acts well sometimes. Keep child in open air in daytime. Only internal medication is some pot. brom. and chloral, and where pain, opium.

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