

to the time of giving antitoxine, hence my reason for giving smaller doses of antitoxine than the larger ones sometimes recommended. The mouth wash was continued for four days after the temperature of the throat and glands became normal.

CHOREA.*

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Though recognized by Paracelsus and studied since the sixteenth century, chorea is one of those affections which is still surrounded with a good deal of obscurity, especially as regards its pathology; and various theories regarding its causation, which have been advanced from time to time, have been assailed, and if not abandoned have not been conclusively established.

As it is largely a developmental disease, the cases occurring in general hospitals, where there are not special wards for children, are comparatively infrequent. In the records of the County Carleton General Protestant Hospital, I find only some ten cases in as many years, nine occurring in females and one in a male aged 15. The ages of the females were, respectively, 14, 15, 14, 19, 47, 23, 21, 12, 12.

1. *Derivation*.—Chorea (*χορεία*, a dance). The disease is traced to the pandemic dancing mania, which made its first appearance after the disappearance of the plague in the second half of the fourteenth century, near the Rhine. In 1375 it was called St. John's dance. It was first called after St. Vitus, at Strasburg, from those afflicted being sent to the chapel of the saint of that name, at Zabern. The name was subsequently extended to sporadic cases of spasmodic movements of the body, and Sydenham was among the first to describe the disease fully.

Schaeffer proposed to change the name from chorea to morbid irritability or muscular unrest. This proposition was not received with favor by the profession, and as no name based on the pathological anatomy of the affection has yet been made out, the old term is still found the most satisfactory.

Definition.—We understand by chorea a neurosis of which the seat may sometimes be the brain alone, sometimes the entire nervous system, characterized by incessant, inco-ordinate twitching or jerks of groups of muscles, which sometimes are spontaneous in origin, and sometimes are excited by voluntary impulse, which occur almost exclusively in the waking state, and are accompanied by a more or less developed psychical disturbance.

Etiology.—Chorea is mainly a disease of the time of bodily development. Of 531 cases collected from the Hospital for Children in Paris, See found it occur at the sixth year, 11 times; from the sixth to the eleventh, 94 times; the eleventh to the fifteenth, 57 times; the fifteenth to twenty-first, 17 times; the twenty-first to the sixtieth, 12 times. In fifty-two cases of Steiner's, four were under six years of age; forty-six, six to eleven; and six, eleven to fourteen.

In the cases from Guy's Hospital, collected by Pye-Smith: From the second to the fifth year, 5 cases; the sixth to the tenth, 62 cases; the eleventh to the fifteenth, 44 cases; the sixteenth to the twentieth, 19 cases; the twenty-first to the twenty-sixth, 5 cases; in the thirty-eighth, 1 case.

The result of Dr. Stephen McKenzie's investigation of 439 cases shows that between the sixth and fifteenth year most cases occur in 77.46 per cent. The preponderance of females over males is very marked. In See's cases, 393 females to 138 males. In McKenzie's, 3 to 1.

Disorders of the sexual function in the female appear to be a causative element—disorders connected with menstruation, sanguification and pregnancy. Barnes collected 58 cases, of which 56 were in pregnant women, and 2 in women in child-bed. Wenzel observed that it occurred oftenest in primiparæ, and in the second three months of pregnancy. Of McKenzie's cases occurring in pregnancy, 5 recovered, 1 died and 1 was lost sight of; several aborted, and 1 died after premature labor had been induced.

The relation between chorea and rheumatism has long been noticed. Of 108 cases at Guy's Hospital in 1846, 14 had rheumatic fever and heart disease preceding the chorea; and in 1856, at the same hospital, out of 209 cases there were only 15 in which rheumatism had not preceded. See and Rogers out of 128 cases, found 61 had

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