

What can be worse for such a patient than to be brought into constant contact with those who are probably of the same nervous organization as himself? I had a case illustrating this in a very striking manner. A girl aged 12, whose mother, although healthy, was an excitable, irresolute, nervous woman, had recurring epileptic attacks for several years. Owing to an accidental circumstance the child was away from home for upwards of a year, and during the latter ten months of that period she was free from fits. On returning home they recurred with greater frequency than before. The child, of her own accord, desired to go back where she had been visiting, and with the result that she again improved. Now although this is only one case, it teaches us something useful—viz., in the treatment of these cases the environment of the patient is of great importance. It can be used as a means of educating the nerve centres. The many ways in which the environment of the patient can be influenced, and through it the metabolism of the cerebral centres, are too numerous to refer to. I will here only mention one other. It is well known that certain people have one special sense developed inordinately—developed at the expense of the other senses. In some, for instance, the hearing is acute, while the sight is dull. As frequently the converse is true. The nearer the different sense centres in the brain come to the physiological norm, the less likely are we to have unbalanced mechanism. When certain areas are inordinately acute, we have an unbalanced state; and by careful training I have no doubt much might be done in the direction of bringing about a more perfectly balanced afferent system. It is not my intention to deal to-night with the connection of ocular defects and certain ovarian and uterine operations as methods of treating epilepsy.

Ever since the treatment of epilepsy by the different bromides has become the general practice, it has become with most of us a mere matter of routine to give these drugs day after day and month after month, paying but little heed to the many other ways which, individually, are not of great moment, but when taken together are of the greatest possible importance. It will no doubt appear to many to be very heterodox to question the great