

to begin with, never in such cases quite what they should be. Thus in acquired nervousness, the hand is apt to become tremulous, and under emotion of any kind this may increase, so that when conscious of being observed it becomes impossible even to sign the name."

In some cases the mental or emotional impression disturbs the vasomotor system, and we have spasm or dilatation of vessels, violent arterial throbbing, and excited cardiac action. The throbbing aorta is a characteristic symptom in some cases, and this "preternatural pulsation in the epigastrium" of Allan Burns may, as Osler says, be so forcible as to suggest an abdominal aneurism.

Often, too, the face will have a pinched expression, owing to the contraction of the peripheral vessels, and the accompanying facial spasticity will convey the subjective sensation that when he endeavours to smile he is making a rather sardonic attempt at it—the smile that won't come on, so to speak.

How the extreme of nervousness acts on the battlefield is well known. Sometimes the like happens in acquired nervousness, and emotion provokes urination or motion of the bowels. Alas, who but can appreciate what must be the feelings of the poor neurotics when the guardian angel of all normal individuals, the sphincters, desert them, for "who is there that has not felt a kind of competitive struggle, an intestinal warfare, so to speak, going on within himself, fearing the issue, and has not been thankful for the result, and full of gratitude of the little indomitable sphincter, which has averted the catastrophe."

Dr. Weir Mitchell has seen more than one nervous man who, on leaving home in the morning, would be turned back again and again to make water, and, as he states, Mr. Carpenter has long since called attention to the fact that when we watch our automatic movements, and try to make them voluntary, we at once make them difficult. Then, too, owing to this habit of watching their own physiology, as well as the hyperæsthesia which is often present, and worrying about themselves in general, these individuals acquire that morbid frame of mind which is apt to make life more miserable than any other—that of the disease fancier, and Dr. Crothers, of N. Y., even goes as far as to define neurotic diathesis as meaning a tendency to seek relief from every discomfort and pain. Here, in case you all have not read it, I cannot help repeating Jerome's lively description in this regard, contained in his "Three Men in a Boat," which stripped of its facetious vein, is only too true in many instances:

"It is a most extraordinary thing, but I never read a patent medicine advertisement without being impelled to the conclusion that I am suf-