

V. The family history may exhibit certain tendencies, such as physical, psychical, and metabolic faults, or a proclivity to chronic infection. Some diseases are hereditary through the father or the mother, and it may be advisable to try to trace the disease in past or present generations. Other diseases are contagious, and then the state of health or cause of death in the other members of the family may be important. In some other cases several members of a family may have become infected from a common source. This should be sought.

VI. The importance of a careful observation of the patient cannot be overestimated. It should comprise all those facts which may become known to us through our senses of sight, hearing, or smell, as the patient stands, sits, or lies before us. We have endeavoured to indicate the most important points on the opposite page. All these may be noted without disturbing the patient, except to engage him in conversation. The student should train himself not only to observe the presence of abnormalities, but also to note their absence, *e.g.*, loss of weight, or the contrary, etc.

It should be remembered that every patient who comes for advice is ill, or thinks he is ill, or is thought to be ill, or wishes to know if he is sound, or is malingering. Except in the last case, it is the truth that he seeks. As a rule, though by no means always, he will freely open his mind and give every opportunity for a thorough investigation, particularly if one gains his confidence.

1. Has the patient a vigorous, average, or feeble constitution?

2. By personality, we mean the individual, apart from disease, and this is gauged by the exercise of those faculties which enable a layman to estimate the essential qualities of an individual—mental, temperamental, etc. Every person has a personality or individuality peculiar to himself—a mental complex dependent upon heredity, previous disease, education, home training, association with other minds, etc. In most illnesses this personality is but slightly changed or masked, *e.g.*, the restlessness of slight fever in so-called "grippe". At times certain of his characteristics may be accentuated, *e.g.*, in states of mental stress nervous individuals may exhibit greater nervousness. In severe illnesses or serious accidents the personality may be almost or completely changed or obliterated, *e.g.*, in the typhoid state, coma, delirium, etc. Along with personality, the character of the dress may be noted. Does it conform to his probable or supposed status in the community?