

to the patients themselves, and are only discovered by the careful examination of a physician (for example the eye symptoms), shows clearly that a simulation of this disease as a whole is impossible. Certain isolated symptoms may be feigned for a purpose, but a knowledge of the disease, with all its definite manifestations, will enable the physician quickly to detect the malingerer.

Let us now, however, "*revenir à nos moutons*" and discuss further the cause of this inability to walk. In considering this it would be well to mention also other corresponding troubles which occur in hysterics in the upper extremities, in which some functions of the hands are lost, such as a needle woman becoming unable to sew, an ironer to handle an iron, or an inability to write or play the piano, although there is no paralysis of the hands. Such instances as these, as Janet says, are sufficient to prove that there are very often systematic paralysis, in which a certain system of movements, grouped by education, separates from consciousness and takes an existence of its own. There is a dissociation of function here, due to lack of conscious control—an amnesia of the movement—which prohibits function in regard to this movement. Suppose, for example, an individual learns to drive an automobile, the use he makes of his feet and legs, develops a new function for his lower extremities and groups together images in a fresh centre which have never been grouped before. Should he by any chance forget this new function at a later date it need not prevent him from utilizing all the other functions of his legs which he previously possessed, such as walking, etc. Is there an anatomical basis for many of the stigmata of hysteria? It is highly probable that the functional association corresponds to an anatomical association but this can only be elucidated by further study. On one point, however, we may be certain, viz., that the starting point of hysteria is in a disturbance of the higher functions of the encephalon.

If these few and very imperfect remarks will serve to stimulate the study of this most important disease, which offers such a broad field for both psychical and somatic investigation, I am sure an abundant harvest will be reaped by all who cultivate it, more especially as the numerous cases of so-called "shell shock" return from this terrible war, in which the nervous strain is unprecedented in the history of the world.