

faster than it is made, it is only a matter of time till the neuron becomes bankrupt, necessitating a cessation of call on its energy so as to enable it to save up for the next inevitable expenditure.

According to the constitution of the nervous system, all conduction is along a neuron or concatenation of neurons in one direction, one set being centrifugal and the other centripetal, calling the cerebrum and cord the centre.

A neuron is made up of a nerve cell with its nucleus and nucleolus. From one end of the cell extends the axis-cylinder, and from the other a number of branched branches called dendrons. The terminal ending of the axis-cylinder arborizes around the dendrons of the succeeding neuron. If the protoplasm of the neuron is lacking in normal quality, or the intercellular substance existing at the synapses is below normal, it is not hard to imagine the conductivity from one neuron to another to be impeded. It is taken as true that an exhausted neuron is an irritable one, yet if the neuron is in an exhausted condition the part first affected should be the terminal fibres; as one sees in a dying or starved tree, the ends of the limbs are first affected. The conductivity may be affected by an increased separation at the synapses or by deterioration in the terminal fibres of the neuron.

Now, if we apply this to what we call neurasthenia, we can explain many of the symptoms which become classical.

By your permission I should like to compare the nervous system to an electrical apparatus composed of a dynamo—connected by wire with two junctions in it to a motor. The motor is capable of calling automatically on the dynamo for a fixed quantity of power per hour. Also the dynamo has material for so many units of energy per day.

So long as the connections are good in the wires there will be no loss of energy, but if these joints become corroded, the supply of energy from the coal or fuel running the dynamo shall run out sooner, and yet the motor itself only received its fixed quantity. The extra amount was lost in jumping the corroded connections.

So with the synapses in an exhausted neuron, not only running to musculature, causing early tiredness, but also in association fibres in the brain producing that irritability of temper so classic in this trouble. This is especially seen in a neurasthenic who, having his mind centred on some work, is suddenly called to direct his energies to something foreign to what he is at. He is almost sure to show irritability, and as his power of inhibition is weakened he may give vent to language more emphatic than