

these "turns." On one occasion she had convulsive movements and turned over on her face. This fact itself is sufficient, I think, to establish the diagnosis that the "turns" are genuine epilepsy and not hysteria. It is certainly a matter of great importance to be able to draw a distinction between these two diseases.

The following case was also variously diagnosed as epilepsy and hysteria. A female, aged 25, with previous good health, two months after a severe mental distress, had a "fit," which she describes as a "stiffening of all her muscles." For the past year she has been troubled every two weeks with fits, which she characterizes as "severe" ones, and in addition, she has almost daily attacks of minor fits. The former are preceded by blindness and ringing in the ears, and followed by fits of "crying" and "laughing." During the attacks, which last about a minute, she is rigid. She has no remembrance of what passes during these fits. She bites her tongue and passes urine in the fit. In the slight fits she says that she has "strange feelings coming over her and then I lose consciousness, but only for a moment."

I think there can hardly be any doubt but what we have to do here with true epilepsy and not with hysteria. The hysteroid symptoms following the attacks do not exclude this. It is not uncommon to find such states in both sexes. The passing of urine and the tongue biting during the paroxysms are, however, sufficient to establish the diagnosis of epilepsy. The tonic character of the convulsions and the hysteroid state after they have passed away were, I have no doubt, the features in this case that led to the diagnosis of hysteria; and further, there was a history of those conditions which are so productive in giving rise to hysterical attacks.

It is not very rare to find genuine epileptic attacks alternating with hysterical attacks in females. Should such a patient happen to be observed only during the hysterical seizure, it is very likely that even a close observer would be misled, and would go on treating the case as one of pure hysteria.

If a patient, either male or female, bites the tongue and passes