

the Government equip and endow a laboratory where our students can pursue post-graduate study.

If the Biological Department of our Provincial University were used for this purpose, it would indeed advance science to our mutual good, instead of acting as an "apple of discord."

NEUROTIC COMPLICATIONS IN LA GRIPPE.*

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Of the various diseases met with during the past decade, there is perhaps none in which neurotic complications have been more frequent than in that form of epidemic influenza which has swept over our land for several successive years, known as "La Grippe." Why such complications should exist to so great an extent in connection with this disease, is somewhat difficult to understand. We all know that the malady has a peculiar aptitude for searching out any weak organ or system of organs, and making its virulence and power felt upon such weakness; we also know that this is a very neurotic period, that people live at too high a rate of nerve pressure, that they wear out or exhaust their nervous systems prematurely, that they hand to posterity a much more unstable nervous organization than did their ancestors who lived by the light of other days, who did one day's work in a day and went to bed at early candle light, who worked during the day and rested both body and mind at night. These things being considered, it is but the sequence of events that many neurotic complications should accompany and follow so potent a cause as la grippe. Another very tenable explanation would seem to be, that the toxic element in the circulation, upon which the influenza of necessity depends, has a special affinity for the nervous system. This theory would seem to be sustained when we note the excessive amount of irritation set up in the nerves, producing many forms of neuralgia and various inflammations, in some cases not stopping short of symmetrical multiple neu-

ritis, a condition held by some to be conclusive of a toxic cause. Perhaps the truth may rest in a combination of these factors.

The neurotic manifestations of la grippe may best be considered as those occurring during the febrile stage, and those which may be classed as post-febrile or sequelæ. Early in the disease, nervous symptoms occur and may be so pronounced as to give the malady a distinctive character or neurotic type. Such symptoms would include a severe initial chill, followed by intense headache and neuralgia, pains in the course of sets of nerves, especially the fifth pair, down the spine—particularly noted in the lumbar region; also many painful neuralgic sensations, hyperæsthesia of the organs of special sense, obstinate insomnia which may be the forerunner of a transitory psychosis, associated with delusions or hallucinations of exaltation or depression, and which may be followed by a pronounced meningitis leading to permanent mental impairment or ending in coma or death. Many of the above symptoms are of course present in a more or less marked degree in the ordinary fevers and exanthems, but in epidemic influenza they are more pronounced and would seem to possess a distinctive character.

With regard to the nervous sequelæ of la grippe, two important factors should be borne in mind. First: Their severity bears no relative proportion to the severity of the primary disorder. Second: The most serious nerve disorders may follow a second or third attack of influenza, although those successive attacks may each be milder than the preceding one.

Amongst the nervous complications to be noted after the subsidence of the fever, may be mentioned the following motor disturbances: well-marked paresis of the facial and ocular muscles, and of the organs of speech; paralysis of one or more of the extremities as a result of degenerative neuritis, or, as has been recorded, severe organic changes in the central nervous system. Sensory disturbances are also present in some cases, such as hyperæsthesia and anæsthesia, either localized or extending to a more or less extensive area, and I have no doubt that many cases of partial deafness and "grip ear" depend upon an interference with the harmonious working of the auditory nerve. It is also common in the after stages of

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