

Thirdly, as to marriage. There would appear to be no real foundation for the widespread belief, mainly held by the less educated section of the community, that the marriage of an epileptic girl, especially if pregnancy results, favors the cure of the disease. On the contrary, although isolated instances of such a cure occur, the consequences of matrimony tend to the production of circumstances distinctly unfavorable to the arrest of the disease. That there is no certainty in the influence of marriage upon epilepsy is the result of the observation of most writers on this subject.

The influence, however, upon the individual is relatively small as compared with that upon the offspring, and the consequent transmission of the disease. In definitely hereditary cases it is probable that one or more children out of several will become epileptic; there is no certainty that any of the offspring will suffer, although it is unlikely that all will escape.

MIND AND BODY—HYSTERIA.

It has been the custom in the teaching of the schools largely to disregard the mental side of disease, and to consider as altogether a special study symptoms and diseases based upon a psychical foundation.

Perhaps, under existing arrangements, such a dissociation is necessary, but the close inter-relation between mental and physical symptoms is all-pervading, and there will be an advance in clinical teaching when this aspect is more decidedly brought before the attention of students during their hospital career.

In the first place, there is no physical disorder, however slight, which does not produce some effect upon the mind, though varying in degree according to the temperament. Every practitioner is aware how much the course and treatment of an acute inflammatory or other malady depends upon the mental attitude of the patient, according as he regards his condition from a hopeful or a pessimistic aspect.

There are many persons who consider that the onset of some unpleasant or unaccustomed sensation in any part of the body signifies the development of a serious disease, a form of spurious hypochondriasis, which only requires the *ipse dixit* of their physician to dispel. But a type of case is occasionally met with in which the commencement of a grave and incurable malady may be preceded or accompanied by fears in the patient's mind that such a calamity is in store for him. It is, in fact, a presentiment of actual physical disorder, and sometimes of dissolution.