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THE POST-INFLUENZAL MENTAL DISORDERS.

The influenzal poison, like that of all the common acute infectious diseases, is sometimes followed by various nervous disorders. There can be no doubt that influenza is one of the most, if not *the* most, prolific causes of functional and even organic affections of the nervous system. This is not strange when we consider the universality of its action. The three great influenzal epidemics of the past few years have sorely tried the nervous resisting power of countless thousands. It is safe to say that more people have been affected with influenza during this period than from all the other actual infectious diseases.

The influenzal poison, like alcohol, is especially apt to affect the highest cerebral centres and the terminal nerves. After both, we meet with either mental disorder or peripheral neuritis more frequently than from any other microbic or chemical poison.

In the current number of the *Journal of Mental Sciences* there is a review of Leledy's work on *La Grippe et l'Alienation Mentale*, where the part played by influenza in bringing about insanity is fully discussed. There is an agreement among those who have recently written on this subject that nearly every form of insanity may follow influenza. Melancholia appears to be more frequent than other forms. The mental symptoms may appear during the course of the influenza, or there may be an interval of a few weeks between the cause and the effect. Care should be taken not to connect, as is too frequently done, symptoms appearing long periods after an attack of influenza as a direct cause. In some cases the influenza appears to be the essential cause, while in others it