

Special Selection

CHOREA AND ANEMIA.

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In the etiology of chorea nothing is noted relative to anemia. It is simply accounted as an accompanying symptom of the condition. Medical literature emphasizes the relation between rheumatism and chorea, with anemia as an important symptom. After observation of several cases, I am strongly of opinion, however, that anemia as a causative factor is worthy of investigation.

Anemia of toxic origin presents pathological conditions, which favor the production of choreaic affections. It is true that simple anemia is, as a rule, of secondary origin, and, viewed in this light, it may be argued that of chorea arises, it is the result of the primary and not of the secondary conditions—thus agreeing with the admitted etiology. This argument, however, will not satisfactorily explain those cases of chorea which arise remotely from the primary condition, but recently from the secondary effects.

I submit three cases in which symptoms, treatment, and recovery seem to intimate at least a possible relation between anemia and chorea.

CASE 1.—A female child of eight years gave a history of typhoid fever eight months prior to my visit. According to the mother's statement, the child had made a quick and good recovery, gaining rapidly in weight and exhibiting the energy of her former life. Six months later she became irritable and pale, with pain in her arms and legs, which condition was soon followed by gastric disorders and irregular spasms of the muscles of the face. Simple anemia was in evidence from objective and subjective symptoms alone, but was unquestioned in the light of the results obtained from blood examination—the red blood element being present to the extent of barely 3,000,000 red corpuscles per c.m.

This case was treated with two teaspoonfuls of Pepto-Mangan (Gude) and two drops of Fowler's solution, three times a