

acute and skilful judgment. She was of an age when an injury, not very serious otherwise, might have caused in the particular sex, a disturbance of the digestive organs—which might result in the manifest symptoms. The hepatic functions were clearly arrested, to a very considerable extent, while a disguised train of the symptoms of hysteria were not less prominent. A medical treatment was at once adopted—she was ordered purgative medicine, to be taken two or three times a week, composed of calomel and aloes, āā grs. viij. with light regimen, consisting of milk and bread, potatoes, turnips, carrots and fruits, all well cooked. The design being to pursue this practice some six weeks, or two months, and then, should no alleviation be perceived, to cut down through the injured parts to seek the cause of the disease in the head. Two doses of the medicine were not exhibited, when a most happy impression was made on the disease. An immediate subsidence of all the fits, with direct improvement of the head, followed the three first days; while rapid and undoubted return of health continued to be manifested up to the time she left town—some three weeks after the practice was instituted.—*Transylvania Med. Jour.*

CASE OF DEMONOMANIA, WITH CEREBRAL DISTURBANCE.

BY PLACIDO PORTAL, M.D., ETC.

[Translated from the Italian, for the Medical and Surgical Journal.]

ROSA CINEXIS, a countrywoman aged 36, of a nervous temperament with a bilious idiosyncrasy, of feeble constitution, ordinary stature, dark complexion, black hair, eyebrows and eyelashes, small forehead, chestnut eyes, contracted pupils, aquiline nose, and large mouth, was in 1830 received for the second time into the Royal Madhouse at Palermo, laboring under furious demonomania. The cerebral attacks were renewed three or four times a week, and with constantly increasing violence.

A thorough examination being instituted, there was not found upon the surface of her body the least trace of previous disease, except some herpetic spots, apparently superficial, upon the head. In this obscurity as to the cause of her madness, we with difficulty traced it back, in the account given by her parents, to a sudden retrocession of the honeycomb scab, with which she had been affected;* and they further stated that she had had no children from her marriage, and for several years had suffered from prolapsus of the vagina, but without positive disturbance from it. Notwithstanding this, while she was in our establishment the catamenia were regular; the disease, during the same, being wholly unaltered, both in form and intensity.

In commencing the treatment, we clearly saw the necessity of recalling upon the head the receded scab; and employed, though vainly, every means, topically and generally. Yet in order to weaken the

* In connection with this most interesting circumstance, I may mention, as somewhat rare, an instance within my knowledge, of a child, now 6 or 7 years old, idiotic, or rather non compos, from her second year, when a "scabby eruption," upon the head chiefly, disappeared during a course of treatment by direct applications.—TRANSLATOR.

force of the morbid paroxysms, and to guard against injury to the brain from the great afflux of blood at those times, bleeding in the feet was advised, and leeches were applied to the mastoid processes; yet, though the blood flowed abundantly, no benefit was obtained. Nor was any advantage derived from the administration of drinks with tartarized antimony, tartrated lemonade, pediluvia of very hot water with mustard and vinegar, sinapisms to the thighs and legs, general tepid baths, and the application of ice in a bladder upon the head, according to the repulsive method. The patient, nevertheless, ate, digested food well, and the alvine dejections took place naturally.

In the cerebral attacks one most curious phenomenon observed, was her irresistible instinct for beating her head violently upon the pavement, or against the walls of her apartment, thinking thus to drive away the devil from her body, as she held him to be the first mover of all her suffering. And indeed, wonderful to relate, instead of experiencing pain and discomfort from such a proceeding, she appeared to derive pleasure from it, never being heard to complain. The force with which she dashed her head against the walls, was such as to lacerate the integuments, and produce contusions, which being attended with extravasations of blood, occasioned uneven tumors between the hairy scalp and the aponeurotic cap. Nor did the frightful scene ever end without frequent and deep sighs, which were followed by a calm, and a depression, such as follows protracted disease; and this continued as long as the exhaustion.

In order to break the vicious chain of such a morbid habit, she was confined by the straight waistcoat; a means, the mere sight of which attests the disadvantages which terror brings with it in all ordinary maniacs. Nevertheless, it was not in the least regarded by Cinexis. Nor was it omitted to make her sleep in a dark and secure chamber; also in a cradle invented by Baron Pisani, the praiseworthy director of the establishment. But no good resulted from these expedients, for the patient was hardly released from her confinement, before she hastened again to beat her head upon the pavement.

It is to be noticed, that every time the accessions were repeated, the face became red, the eyes sparkling, the pupils contracted, the pulse quick and vibrating, and the whole body affected, as if by general convulsions. At such periods she first wept, shrieked, and screamed, calling people to her aid, and then abandoned herself to her unfortunate habit; and if, from being watched, she could not effect this at the moment, she studied to do it at another time, when supposing herself free and alone. This vicious association of automatic determinations, so to call it, seems to me, in fact, not to depend upon the will; but to constitute the principal symptom of insanity so inveterate, as well as a principal obstacle to the cure. Our patient, because prevented from dashing her head against the wall, passed immediately to the strongest acts of fury, and soon after fell to weeping. During this her face became convulsed, and her physiognomy showed the marks of profound grief.

The hairy scalp has, from the repeated bruising, besides being strongly adherent to the subjacent bones, become almost of a horny consist-

ence; and in the parts most exposed, namely, the occipital and parietal, baldness already appeared. And here let it be considered, that ordinarily such contusions upon the head render themselves in some, nay, many cases, formidable or fatal. From the delicate structure of the brain and its membranes, they are capable, at such times, of feeling more sensibly than any other parts of the body, the effects of the morbid vital concentration, and this phlogistic turgidity always introduces us to a terrific scene. Not so with the repeated contusions in our patient. There resulted from these, external tumors with extravasation of blood; for the cure of which, resolvents, so called, being found useless, we have been exceedingly aided four times, in the course of eighteen months, by large incisions, which always gave escape to some confined clots of blood. It is remarkable that the madness of Cinexis was never observed to diminish in intensity during the external disease, while the other patients in the establishment have recovered their reason when cured by external affections, and, these last being healed, lost it again.

As to the influence of the seasons and of atmospheric changes in the production or aggravation of such cerebral disorders, we learn from Hippocrates, Aretæus and Celsus, that furious mania is developed more peculiarly in summer and in autumn; and from others we learn that melancholy manifests itself in autumn, and insanity in winter. As great cold, so again great heat, of the seasons affects the insane disadvantageously. In our above-mentioned establishment we have noticed a thousand times a sensible change in the unfortunates at the blowing of the mountain wind. Charles XI. lost his reason, only by being exposed to the strong rays of the sun; and this same Cinexis, when in summer the south winds blew, especially the noisome sirocco, that paragon of the simoom, fell quickly into more frequent cerebral accessions; the propensity to beat her head redoubled; while nothing in that state afforded her relief but cold affusions upon the head, and cold fomentations according to Schmucker's method; the douche being tried, but never with advantage.

In October, 1833, she was seized with a diarrhœa so obstinate against every remedy (antispasmodics and astringents being given, the former to assuage the disease, and the latter to repair the consequences), that the poor creature lost her strength, and became greatly prostrated. Nor was benefit derived from such a diarrhœa, which in our other patients, by making of the intestines a centre of revulsion, as it were, and diminishing the afflux to the brain, always mitigates the accesses of the malady; on the contrary, in her it has not only increased the frequency of the paroxysms, but has even rendered them more intense, augmenting the evil propensity above mentioned.

[The narrative of the case here terminates; the memoir, from which the above was extracted, being published at this stage of it. In the report of the autopsy, published subsequently, it is merely prefaced that the patient at no time complained of pains in the chest, nor suffered from fever, nor bloody or purulent expectoration: but that she gradually emaciated, the tendency to beat her head at the same time ceasing. The author attributes much of the morbid lesion discovered

post mortem, to a chronic phlegmasia commencing with the suppression of the diarrhœa above mentioned.—TRANSLATOR.]

Cadaveric Autopsy of Rosa Cinexis.—This took place on the 1st of March, 1834, that is, 69 days after the publication of the above memoir. Death occurred the day before.

External appearances.—General emaciation; remarkable want of rigidity in the muscles of the lower extremities; lesions from pressure over the trochanters and os sacrum; vibices, or gangrenous marks on the dorsum of the left foot; superficial herpetic spots upon the head; baldness, and scars from the repeated incisions over the left parietal bone; the hairy scalp hard, and adherent to the subjacent bone.

Head.—Scalp extremely hard, and as it were cartilaginous under the knife, adherent to the left parietal and the occipital bone; no change of color or consistence in the external lamina of the bones; a marked prominence of the sagittal suture; depression of the temporal bones, occipital protuberance sufficiently developed; the pericranium harder and thicker than natural; the cranial bones white as ivory, hard and destitute of diploe, but more thickened and solid at the parts which had been most beaten; in the internal lamina, the furrows corresponding to the large vessels ramifying in the dura mater, were little pronounced. Between the cranium and dura mater there was about half a pint of serosity; the glandulæ Pacchioni enlarged; the vessels of the dura mater dilated and injected with blood, the arachnoid similarly injected, and indurated, especially in the portion corresponding to the left anterior and posterior lobe of the cerebrum, where the injection was very remarkable. In the superior longitudinal sinus there was found a false membrane like a lumbricus, four inches long, and as thick as a writing quill, slightly transparent, and enclosing a yellowish matter of the consistence of the white of an egg; while a tissue of very fine filaments connected the false membrane with each hemisphere of the brain, the sinus being generally much distended with bloody coagula. The lateral sinus was dilated to three times the normal size, and exhibited a soft, polypous concretion.

The cortical substance of the brain was soft, and somewhat dark-colored, while the contiguous medullary portion was very white, and so hard as to resist strongly to the touch; and the blood dripped from it, which is observed only in cases of organic lesion. The corpora striata and callosum, and the optic thalami, were found natural. A little serosity was collected in the ventricles; the pineal gland, somewhat enlarged, presented the color of roasted coffee. Finally, the cerebral nerves, especially the optic, were lucid, resisting, and thicker than ordinary; the medulla oblongata and spinalis, natural.

Chest.—The costal pleura somewhat reddened throughout; the lungs in some points gray, in others livid, more voluminous than ordinary; their substance suppurated, and, particularly in the left lung, entirely gone. The heart in a natural state, but in its left ventricle were found coagula, and two yellow polypi as large as filberts; the large vessels natural.

Abdomen.—The omentum reddish, with spots of a brownish red; the

mesentery of a similar appearance, and its glands varying from the size of French beans to that of filberts. The intestines red externally and distended with air, especially the ileum and colon; their mucous membrane slightly red; the stomach containing many worms; the gall-bladder full of bile; the liver harder than ordinary; and the spleen and pancreas of ordinary size. The kidneys were atrophied, three inches long and an inch and a half thick, of a figure nearly cylindrical, with their internal substance white, lardaceous, cerebriiform, and yielding to the knife with difficulty. The ureters were natural; the bladder very small, its internal mucous membrane full of remarkable sugar, and indurated, with the bloodvessels varicose, especially in the posterior part corresponding to the rectum.

Genital organs.—The external parts natural, except the prolapse of the vagina. The uterus atrophied, of the size of a chesnut, as hard as cartilage throughout, and very white; the os tincæ sufficiently small and contracted, and sprinkled with red spots. The internal structure of the uterus degenerated, indurated, and the mucous membrane sprinkled with red spots. The ligaments and ovaries were indurated also, the ligaments being lucid, like mother of pearl.

IDENTITY, SLEEP AND DREAMING.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The case of Somnambulism that lately appeared in the Medical and Surgical Journal, presents some topics for speculation which may not be unprofitable to bring before your readers.

The following questions have suggested themselves to me, as most worthy of consideration.

- 1st. How was personal identity affected by his state?
- 2d. What was the actual condition of the intellect?
- 3d. How did it differ from sleep, from dreaming, from the waking state?
- 4th. What relation did it bear to certain forms of insanity?
- 5th. Can any inference be drawn from these phenomena, explanatory of the connection between mind and body?

Our notion of personal identity arises from a similar process of the mind to that which gives us the idea of extension or duration. It is in consequence of the *continued* observation of what passes within us, as the latter is of what passes without. Every act of sensation or volition is accompanied with an idea different from that sensation or volition itself. This idea is a new sensation; it is, that the mind feels or wills, independent of *what* it feels or wills. And this feeling is what constitutes consciousness. The continued, uninterrupted observation that the mind feels, or acts, constitutes identity while it lasts. When consciousness of our feelings or actions is suspended, and again renewed, it is in consequence of memory acting on attending circumstances, that gives rise to the belief that we are the same persons that have such and