

Notes on Two Cases of Epilepsy in Twins, with Photographs,
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SPECIAL features of interest in two cases of epilepsy in twin sisters under care in this asylum induced me to publish these short notes, although the cases do not exhibit anything particular from the clinical side.

Salvina O— (left photo) and Lorenza O— (right photo) were born eighteen years ago. Their father's grandmother and uncle both died in this asylum, the former from senile dementia, the latter from tumour of the brain. No history of alcohol or syphilis in the family.

Both Salvina and Lorenza had their first attacks when eight years old, within a few weeks of each other. The fits were never accompanied by mental disturbance, and the children could be safely kept at home till their first attack of delirium, which occurred about a year ago. They both attended school with very little success.

Salvina was admitted to this asylum on August 30th, 1918, in a very excited condition. She was completely disorientated, restless and exhibiting aggressiveness. The relatives reported that it was the first time that the girl could not be managed at home.

Lorenza followed her sister to the asylum after a couple of months with the same symptomatology, and, as in the case of Salvina, it was the first epileptic delirium exhibited by the patient. Both sisters had their first menses at the age of thirteen, and these ceased on the supervening of the delirium. The amenorrhœa still persists in both cases.

A point of interest is the fact that always, or nearly so, the appearance of the delirium in Salvina is followed by that of Lorenza, necessitating the warding of both sisters with the dangerous patients. The delirium is always of short duration, and marked more by restlessness than by aggressiveness.

Quite lately while Salvina was under a very severe attack of delirium Lorenza was in the infirmary in a regular status epilepticus from which she slowly recovered.

Both sisters are feeble-minded, and when free from delirium they are useful helpers in their ward. While Lorenza is always morose and gloomy, Salvina is cheerful, laughs, is coquettish in her manners, adorns herself with bright-coloured ribbons, and she is particularly fond of squeezing and kissing the assistant physician's hand on his rounds. This mood of hers helps us to distinguish at once Salvina from her sister, as their features and their figures are almost identical, save perhaps that Lorenza's nose is very slightly flatter than that of her sister. Both sisters weigh 8 st. and their height is 5 ft.



To illustrate paper by Dr. R. M. TOLEDO.

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