

patient's fingers became immediately rigid whenever he attempted to write. When the case came under the author's care, the condition had already persisted for fifteen years, and numerous methods of treatment had been employed without avail. The patient was directed to tie a piece of indiarubber tubing around the upper arm, the ligature being applied for twenty minutes morning and evening. The object aimed at was the induction of venous stasis. An almost complete cure resulted in two months. The author is of opinion that the effect cannot be ascribed to suggestion, as he only saw the patient once during the whole period of treatment.

BERNARD HART.

*Delusion of Altered Personality* [*Sur un cas de Délire Métabolique de la Personnalité lié à des troubles de la Cœnesthésie*]. *Arch. de Neurol.*, October, 1905.) *Deny, G., et Camus, P.*

A female patient, æt. 37, was admitted to the Salpêtrière with the following history. As a result, apparently, of prolonged emotional stress, a state of anxiety appeared, with obsessive self-absorption, agitation, weeping, etc. Hypochondriacal ideas of negation then arose, and finally ideas of corporeal transformation. The patient believed herself changed into a dog, a bull, a man—she no longer recognised herself, and bewailed the metamorphosis of her old personality. Limited at first to her physical self, the change gradually involved the psychical self. Similarly the patient's family and surroundings appeared to be changed: her mother became the Virgin Mary, her husband Jesus Christ. In spite of the grandiose character of these delusions, the depression and anxiety persisted. Orientation in time and space was very defective.

The author ascribes the ideas of corporeal transformation to a disturbance of the cortical centres in which are registered the organic sensations underlying our notion of bodily existence. The ideas of transformation are due to a false interpretation of the abnormal sensations experienced by the patient. The disturbance of the cerebral cœnesthesia affects the organic element of the sensorial perceptions, leaving their specific element intact. Hence the patient recognises and identifies persons and things up to a certain point, but maintains that they have undergone some kind of change. The present sensations, moreover, being deprived of the affective element inseparable from their cœnæsthetic component, cannot be superposed on those fixed by the memory. Hence the doubts, hesitations, and profound disorientation with regard to time and space.

The above interpretation is simply a development of that already applied to similar cases by Ribot, Cotard, and Séglas.

BERNARD HART.

*Eroticism in an Eunuch* [*Eunuchisme et Erotisme*]. (*Le Prog. Méd.*, Jan. 26th, 1907.) *Marie.*

This very brief note refers to a case seen by Dr. Marie in Dr. Warnock's asylum at Abbamih. The patient, a slave from Kordofan, æt. about 40, had been completely castrated in infancy. He was congenitally *débile*, and for some years before his admission to the asylum

LIII.

58