

The author reaches the following conclusions :

(a) Functional pyrexia actually exists. It is to be regarded, however, not as a production of fever by psychical influences, but as a result of morbid affections of the heat-regulating centre in the brain.

(b) The body-weight can vary considerably as a result of centrally conditioned disturbances of the kidneys, and of alterations in the innervation of the muscles.

(c) In hysteria, as in the psychoses, a temporary dissociation may exist between "vegetative" and "psychical" functions. That is to say, both may not be affected at the same time, or one may recover before the other. This is to be ascribed to a non-synchronous lesion of the different parts of the brain concerned.

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Dupuytren's Contraction as an Associated Condition in some Psychopathies
[*La contrattura palmare fenomeno concomitante di alcune psicopatie*].
(*Ann. di Freniat.*, vol. xx, fasc. 4, Dec., 1910) Bellini, G.

In this paper, the author records brief clinical notes of twenty cases of insane patients presenting in more or less marked degree the condition of contraction of the palmar fascia. The cases, which were collected from a series of a thousand admissions to the Turin Asylum, belonged for the most part to the more strongly hereditary types of mental disorder. Thirteen of the cases occurred in women and seven in men. In no instance was there a history of injury or of professional occupation involving special pressure on the palm. Almost all the patients presented concomitant symptoms of trophic disorder in the upper extremities—shiny skin, brittle, ridged nails, imperfectly developed muscles, etc. There were also in several of the cases disturbances of sensibility, especially of thermic sensibility. In view of these facts the author suggests that the palmar contraction in these cases is to be regarded as a symptom of syringomyelia, and that the mental disorders are to be attributed to a congenital cerebral deficiency under the dependence of the same degenerative causes that have given rise to the hypothetical fault in the grey matter of the cord. This would be in accordance with the theory of the neuropathic origin of Dupuytren's contraction, a theory which has recently found some support in the investigations of several Italian pathologists. The author hopes to verify his hypothesis when the cases come to autopsy.

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4. Pathology of Insanity.

A Fifth Contribution to the Pathological Anatomy of Infective Chorea
[*Quinto contributo all'anatomia patologica della corea infettiva*]. (*Riv. Sper. di Fren.*, vol. xxxvii, Fasc 1 and 2.) Guizzetti, P., and Camisa, G.

Guizzetti has published four previous communications on the pathology of infective chorea, the last in 1901. In the present instance the authors give the history and the pathological findings in two cases which were fully investigated in the clinique and the *post-mortem* laboratory, and at the same time pass in rapid review the cases