

attributed to the latent criminal disposition of the patient, this disposition being shown by the somatic and functional stigmata, and by the existence of symptoms of probably epileptoid character.

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*On the So-called Polyneuritic Psychosis [Sulla cosiddetta psichosi polineuritica]. (Il Manicomio, anno xviii, No. 2, 1902.) Esposito.*

In this paper, the author reports two personal observations which presented a combination of mental disturbance with symptoms of peripheral paralysis, and in connection therewith enters at some length into a critical examination of Korsakow's disease.

In the first case, the patient was a man 41 years of age. The mental symptoms consisted in a short prodromal phase of insomnia and malaise, followed by vague, unstable illusions and hallucinations with profound disorder of attention and memory, the memory defect taking the form of immediate amnesia for recent events with good recollection of past events. On recovery, the amnesia for the period of the attack persisted. The accompanying somatic phenomena included a moderate degree of paresis and anæsthesia in the lower limbs, more marked distally, with some exaltation of the patellar reflexes. No electrical examination was made. These symptoms, in the author's view, justify a diagnosis of multiple neuritis. The only ætiological factor was alcoholism.

In the second case the patient, æt. 35, presented somewhat similar symptoms of confusional insanity—mobile hallucinations with vague delirium of persecution and motor agitation—ending in recovery within two months. The memory defect consisted in very rapid amnesia for recent impressions with less marked loss of recollection for past events. On recovery the salient incidents in the period of the attack could be evoked. The chief somatic symptom was a paralysis of the right internal rectus, apparently from a nuclear lesion. The onset of the attack was marked by vertigo and titubation. In addition to alcoholism, syphilis and malaria were noted in the patient's history.

Discussing the recent literature of the polyneuritic psychosis the author notes a tendency to apply the term indiscriminately to all cases where confusional insanity is associated with any sort of peripheral paralytic symptoms. He would maintain, on the contrary, that to justify the retention of Korsakow's disease as a nosological entity it should be shown that the two orders of symptoms are in some essential connection, and that the mental condition has in it something distinctive. He holds that neither of these propositions is true: multiple neuritis frequently occurs without mental symptoms; the mental symptoms described by Korsakow are often seen without any evidence of neuritis; and the special disorder of memory, which has sometimes been regarded as pathognomonic, is met with not uncommonly in all toxi-infectious psychoses, and may be absent in cases of insanity with multiple neuritis.

The author publishes his cases as examples of the fortuitous co-existence of the mental and somatic phenomena.

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