

HYSTERIA.

This disease is caused by anything that impairs the nervous organism. It occurs in both males and females, but most frequently in females, beginning at, or soon after, puberty, and in many cases continuing through life. The chief cause of hysteria is vacancy of mind, that is, want of occupation. Those persons who have an object in life, something to accomplish, are generally too much occupied to have hysteric fits, while those who have nothing to do or to think of except self, soon induce a morbid condition of mind that manifests itself in hysteria.

Symptoms.— Convulsive movement of the body and limbs, violent beating of the breasts, tearing the hair or garments, violent agitation, shrieks, and a sensation as of a ball rising upward from some part of the body to the throat, causing suffocation and convulsions. The attack ends with tears or convulsive outbreaks of crying or laughter. This disease does not always manifest the same symptoms.

Treatment.— To bring the patient out of the fit, apply cold water to the head and spine. To prevent the return of the fit, keep the patient's mind so occupied that self will be forgotten. Give constitutional treatment.

The Hygienic Family Physician: A Complete Guide for the Preservation of Health, and the Treatment of the Sick without Medicine, pg. 305 by M. G. Kellogg