

**Dictionnaire des maladies
éponymiques et des observations
princeps : Jackson (épilepsie de)**

**JACKSON, John Hughlings. -
Unilateral epileptiform seizures,
attended by temporary defect of sight**

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the 22nd—a week after the cessation of the catamenia. Mr. Parson gave chloroform; Dr. Boulton, of Horncastle, Mr. Macilwain, etc., were present. The operation was of the simplest possible description. An incision, four inches long, downwards, from one inch below the umbilicus, exposed a non-adherent cyst, which was tapped, and withdrawn as it was emptied. A small pedicle on the left side was secured by a clamp, the cyst cut away, the right ovary felt to be healthy, and the wound closed by sutures, without the slightest exposure of any of the viscera. There were fourteen and a half pints of fluid removed, and the cyst weighed seventeen ounces. She went on for two days perfectly well. The stitches were removed on the 24th, and the wound was quite healed. On the 25th symptoms of bronchitis, with pulmonary congestion, came on—cough, very viscid expectoration, raised with much difficulty, thirst, hot skin, and pain under the sternum. The pulse was 100, respiration 32. Acetate of ammonia was given freely, and hot linseed poultices were applied to the chest. On the 26th, all the symptoms were aggravated. Early in the morning the pulse was 130, the respiration 40. At 11 a.m., the respiration being still 40, and the pulse 140, Mr. Wells took eight ounces of blood from the arm. The patient immediately felt great relief; the pulse fell to 120, respiration to 36, and free perspiration came on. Ten grains of chlorate of potash were given every two hours. A little champagne was given during the night. During the next day the respiration was about 40, and pulse 120. Expectoration very viscid. Five minims of ipecacuanha wine were given with each dose of chlorate of potash. On the 28th all medicine was discontinued, as the pulse had fallen to 100, respiration to 36, and the cough and dyspnoea had nearly disappeared. It was curious that, notwithstanding the obstinate cough, the abdominal wound had healed perfectly, and she never complained of the slightest pain in the abdomen. The clamp was removed on May 1. A little pus escaped from the lower angle of the wound for a few days, but she was quite convalescent fourteen days after the operation, and left the Hospital in good health on May 23.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

EPILEPSY ARISING FROM AN INJURY TO THE THUMB.

(Under the care of Dr. GREENHOW.)

E. R., aged 16, domestic servant, was admitted as an out-patient November 5, 1862. She had run a splinter of wood the distance of an inch underneath the left thumb-nail four months previously. Much pain and irritation ensued, and at the end of a week she had an epileptic fit, and had had five subsequently, at uncertain intervals, before presenting herself at the Hospital. The wound was still open and painful on pressure. The fits were preceded by a sense of numbness in the thumb, rapidly extending up to the shoulder, when a feeling in the shoulder-joint came on as if it were being wrenched, accompanied by dyspnoea, and pain in the cardiac region. In a few moments the fits followed, in which the patient lost her senses, became convulsed, and usually bit her tongue. After the convulsions subsided she always fell asleep. She had not suffered from convulsions while teething, and had neither had fits previous to her accident nor been subject to hysteria. When seen she was quite free both from headache and vertigo. Catamenia normal; bowels regular; tongue clean.

Thumb to be dressed with warm poultices. ℞ Liq. bichlor. hyd.; tinct. cinchon. co., ʒi ʒiiss.; aq. cinnam., ʒj. ter die.

November 17.—Had had a fit, in all respects resembling the former ones, on the 14th inst. Wound healing. Pergat.

January 30, 1863.—Has had no fit since the last report. Wound quite healed. Pergat.

March 6.—Discharged quite well.

HOSPITAL FOR THE EPILEPTIC AND PARALYSED.

UNILATERAL EPILEPTIFORM SEIZURES, ATTENDED BY TEMPORARY DEFECT OF SIGHT.

(Under the care of Dr. HUGHLINGS JACKSON.)

In the two following cases there was, as well as the epilepsy,

some temporary defect of sight. As a clinical fact, this is common in cases of epilepsy in which the convulsions are unilateral. Sometimes in such cases the temporary defect of sight passes into a permanent one, but more frequently epileptiform seizures follow amaurosis. Such is, we repeat, the clinical fact, but the causes of the temporary loss of sight are very various, being due in some merely to a passing defect of the accessory apparatus of the eye, and in others to defects in the circulation of the retina itself. In a case of epileptiform convulsion in a patient who had recently suffered from syphilitic rash, recorded in this Journal, January 31, 1863, the slight defect of sight appeared to be due to want of parallelism of the eyes from convulsive action of the external rectus muscle on the side of the body affected, as this muscle was afterwards paralysed in the hemiplegia which followed a severe attack. In other cases there appears to be evidence that the defect of sight is due to some change in the circulation of the retina itself, and these are more likely to be followed by amaurosis. A young, robust looking man consulted Dr. Hughlings Jackson, November, 1862, for epileptiform convulsions on the left side. He had then had only one complete attack. In this case the sight failed in the beginning of the paroxysm. A few months afterwards he lost the sight of both eyes. In a case now under the care of Dr. Brown-Séguard, at the Hospital, there has been complete amaurosis for twelve months, followed by epileptiform convulsions on one side.

The attacks of coloured vision in the second case are interesting, but the patient's description is not very exact. It would seem that light entering the eye was temporarily broken up into various colours, as it is more permanently in organic affections, as retinitis, in which patients frequently complain of seeing a "rainbow" round the flame of a candle.

As will be seen by referring to a series of cases recorded in the Hospital reports of this Journal, June and July, 1861, the convulsions in epilepsy from syphilis are generally unilateral. In the following cases there was no evidence of any taint. It is singular that both these patients should have had tapeworm. In the first no worms were passed after taking a dose of the oil of male fern; the other patient did not attend again after taking it:—

A married woman, 38 years of age, consulted Dr. Hughlings Jackson, November 25, 1862, for attacks of convulsion of the left arm and left side of the face. The sight also was affected during the attacks.

She had been delivered four months before, after a natural labour. The child she brought with her was healthy. She was suckling, but her general vigour and health seemed good. There was, however, another condition which might exercise an important influence,—before her confinement she had passed tapeworms.

Fourteen days after her confinement, whilst in bed, she noticed that the first two fingers of the left hand moved. The movement lasted ten minutes. For one month nothing further of the kind occurred. Then, one day whilst at tea, she felt a glimmering over the eyes, then "it took the elbow, next the hand, so that all the fingers worked together," and her face was drawn to the left side. She then became insensible. She did not bite her tongue. She was "black in the face." She did not sleep after the fit.

She had had many abortive attacks since, but no actual fit. They all began with a kind of glare before the eyes, and then the arm became rigid, and the fingers "worked." She would get her husband to pull the fingers back, and this relieved her. After the attack she could use the arm as well as ever. Iodide of potassium was given.

October 2.—She had had one severe attack in the hand, which, she said, her husband "stopped" by pulling back the fingers, but as it was ten minutes before it ceased, very likely the effect was not due to his interference. As she had had tapeworms at one time, a drachm and a half of the oil of male fern was ordered; castor oil to be taken before and after. To continue the iodide.

November 28.—She did not pass any worms after the draught. She had had no actual fits, and complained of nothing except a "glare" before the eyes, and pain, chiefly in the region of the malar bone. She spoke thickly, and this had been so since one attack of movement in the left side of the face. It moved, she said, just as the hand did.

December 11.—Only one slight attack. Her sight, as usual, was affected, and after it she saw "colours and figures."