*Spurious Hydrophobia in Man.* By W. Lauder Lindsay, M.D., F.R.S.E., Physician to the Murray Royal Institution, Perth.

(*Continued from Vol.* xxiii., *page* 559.)

*Metropolitan* (*English*) cases of spurious hydrophobia are both less numerous and less instructive than those that occur so frequently in the Midland counties and their great cities, especially in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire. But some of the London cases are, nevertheless, full of interest. Thus, death from a *cat-bite* formed the subject of an inquest at the St. Pancras Coroner's Court, in April, 1877. The deceased was a woman of 64, who was described as naturally irritable and nervous, and who was sent to the insane ward of the St. Pancras Workhouse in a "state of *mania*.....on account of her madness." And there she "died from congestion of the lungs, brought on by hydrophobia"—said the verdict.*

In a fatal case, narrated by Dr. Partridge, "several of those who were with (the patient) during the attacks, complained of shooting pains in the arms and fingers for weeks afterwards;" while, "with the belief common amongst the public, (his wife or mother) poisoned (the dog that had bit him,) thinking that by so doing the person bitten would not be affected."†

The dog in question had bitten several other persons without in them any ill effect.

A child of five years of age that was taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in 1876, in a state of hydrophobia from *cat-bite*, "seemed suddenly to go *mad*, and was taken to the hospital in a raving state." There is reason here to suspect the operation of the sensational element in public journalism; for acute mania at so early an age is, at least, extremely rare. The child died in and by convulsions; as was the case also in a boy of 10, in the same hospital, during the same month (October)—the cause of the disease in his case being, however, dog-bite.‡ A youth bitten by a *cat*, and who died of hydrophobia at Kemsal, on the border of Notts, "bit and scratched every one near him."§

* "Daily Telegraph," April 13, 1877.
† "British Medical Journal," Feb. 8, 1873, p. 142.
‡ "Daily Telegraph," Oct. 13, 1876.
§ "North British Daily Mail," Feb. 26, 1875.

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Of *Provincial (English)* cases of spurious hydrophobia, the following are the most interesting that have occurred during the last few years :—

"If we may trust the report of an inquest held at Mossley"* (Manchester), says the "Graphic,"† "our old friend, the dog, is not the only creature of whom persons, nervous in the matter of hydrophobia, must beware. An unfortunate Unitarian minister of that place having been bitten by a *cat*, was some time subsequently taken with fatal symptoms, which two local surgeons were of opinion could only be hydrophobia. Unfortunately, as is commonly the case, the cat has been destroyed, without any attempt to investigate the conditions of its intellect; so that the opinion of the surgeons and the credit of the Mossley jury are not likely to be disturbed. Still there are grounds for doubt. Hydrophobia resulting from cat-bite has been mentioned, it is true, in the *old* books; but so has hydrophobia from the pecking of a *fowl*, and even from the bite of a *man*. Medical science, however, is now sceptical about *old* cases‡ of hydrophobia; and it is curious that chief among the reputed symptoms of the Unitarian minister is that special aversion to cold water which, though it gives the name to the disease, is now classed among vulgar errors. While a surgeon of the eminence of Dr. Watson declares that he has never met with more than four cases, one at least of these being doubtful, it is no disparagement to the Mossley surgeons to assume that their practical acquaintance with this *rare* disease is limited: and it is comforting to reflect that even surgeons may be mistaken in this matter, as was proved by a recent case in which, notwithstanding a verdict of hydrophobia, based on the evidence of two highly respectable practitioners, the deceased was subsequently proved to have died of *arsenical poisoning*."

The same journal, the "Graphic,"§ had previously thus written :—"A young surgeon, anxious to distinguish himself as a scientific enquirer, could not, perhaps, take up any subject more promising than that of hydrophobia. We have

* This case was described by Dr. Brumwell, of Mossley, in the "British Medical Journal," Oct. 14, 1871, p. 434.

† Of Aug. 26, 1871.

‡ "Old cases" are not, however, so valueless as is here represented. For we have already seen how the hydrophobia panic of 1876-7 resembles that of 1760; while a typical case of what may be called "imaginative" hydrophobia, that occurred in 1732, is recorded in the "British Medical Journal," of June 30, 1877, p. 817.

§ Of June 3, 1871.

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seen in the papers this week two cases which are at least remarkable. In the one, a child, reported to have died of this horrible disease, is admitted to have been never bitten by a dog at all: but as the doctor had no doubt on the subject, it is inferred it must have taken the poison into the system through a scratch on the foot. In the other case, the bite of a *cat*, not known to be suffering from rabies, is given as a cause of the disease. It is really time that medical men inquired into the terrible subject on something like a scientific method. Will any competent authority, for instance, subject the saliva of a mad dog to chemical analysis, and tell us what is the nature of a poisonous element which is capable of circulating through the blood and affecting human beings with such distressing symptoms? The action of all other poisons is perfectly well known, and there seems no reason why some exact knowledge could not be obtained on this important subject."*

The following curious case happened in the practice of Dr. Lindley, of Derby.†—The patient, a man, said he had been bitten in the leg by a mad dog 12 years ago, and that he had been subject to attacks of hydrophobia in the "Dog-days" ever since. There was a large scar on the back of one leg, where he said he was bitten. His periodical—*annually recurring—attacks* had the following character:—His violence was such that he required to be held down in bed by four powerful men. He barked like a dog, foaming at the mouth. He snapped at and attempted to bite bystanders, and in one of his attacks he had bitten a piece of flesh out of his brother's arm. The whole body became rigid; the power of deglutition was almost suspended, the greater part of the water he tried to swallow coming away almost immediately. There were spasms of the throat and whole body, with grinding of the teeth—the masseters being as hard as stones. These violent or serious symptoms gradually gave way simply to hurried respiration; or he fell fast asleep under a single dose of chloral, awaking apparently in his normal health, the disorder having quite passed away.

At Oldham (Lancashire), in the winter of 1872, a boy died whose death was certified by his medical attendant as due to scarlatina, dropsy and convulsions. A rumour sprang up, however, that hydrophobia was the real cause, and this led to

* Something like "exact knowledge" of such a kind may at length reasonably be expected from the British Medical Association Hydrophobia Commission, recently appointed. (*Vide* "Brit. Med. Journal, Nov. 10, 1877, p. 672).

† As reported in the "Glasgow Daily Herald," of June 17, 1871.

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a coroner's inquest. It then came out that in the month of August previously he had been bitten by a dog. Among the symptoms of the alleged "scarlatina, dropsy and convulsions," it appeared that "on one or two occasions he barked like a young dog, and he attempted twice to bite his father, and, failing him, snatched at his own arm. It did not appear that he had a dread of water. But he occasionally shook his head when liquids were offered him. He had been heard to say that he should die through the bite of a dog." Of the jury, "six agreed that the boy had died from hydrophobia; three declared that death was the result of natural causes; and the rest expressed no opinion." Eventually the jury unanimously found "that deceased was bitten by a dog.....which was supposed to be mad: but whether deceased died from the bite, no conclusive evidence appears to the jurors."*

In a Liverpool hospital, in 1875, there died a labourer, who "had for a year past been continually referring to the death of a man from hydrophobia, and was in low spirits ever since" the said man's death. At length he himself got into a "highly nervous and delirious state," characterised by "barking like a dog," and accompanied by some kind of "fit." *Post-mortem* examination showed that he died "from disease of the brain and spinal cord, the result of natural causes."†

At Tottington, near Bury (Lancashire), a man, as he jumped out of bed one morning, "complained of having been bitten by a dog, and said that he was going mad." He "knocked at the houses of several of his friends, and told them that he was going mad." By and by he did go mad, after his own preconceived fashion; then he barked and howled "like a dog; and as he became unmanageable, it was found necessary to fasten him with cords into his bed." Lastly he died, shortly after admittance into the Jericho Workhouse, Bury. A few days previously to the development of the belief that he was "going mad," one of his fingers had been scratched by a dog's tooth. "But"—we are expressly told—"the dog was not rabid." The "real cause" was attributed to his having killed, about three weeks before this, a mad dog that had bitten several children. "He had a small scratch upon one of his fingers at that time, and it is believed that it came into contact with the saliva from the dog's mouth."§

* As reported in the "Northern Ensign," of November 21, 1872.

† "North British Daily Mail," Jan. 15, 1875.

§ "Manchester News," quoted in the "North British Daily Mail," July 28, 1873.

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Here, as so frequently happens, there is nothing like proof that the self-constituted patient was inoculated with rabietic saliva—or even with canine saliva—at all.

"At the Aston (Birmingham) Police Court, the wife of a labourer.....applied for a summons against the owner of a dog, to show cause why the animal should not be destroyed." She "stated that a short time since, the dog bit her husband in a public house, and that he was still very ill, although the wound had been cauterised." The patient "seemed to fear he would have hydrophobia unless the dog were killed.....He appeared to have an impression that he could not recover unless the dog were destroyed."*

This is but one of the latest specimens I have met with of a mischievous *superstition* that seems to be as prevalent among our lower orders now-a-days as it was centuries ago; mischievous especially in that the premature destruction of an accused animal deprives us of the means of determining whether or not it was really rabietic.

"At Manchester, a man who had been bitten by a dog, became much depressed, and went into the infirmary, where it was ascertained that, though entirely free from any symptoms of hydrophobia, he was suffering from *acute mania,* the mere result of *delusion and fear.* He died.....and in accordance with the medical testimony, a verdict was returned by the coroner's jury that death was caused by exhaustion, consequent on *delirium,* and that the deceased had not suffered from hydrophobia."†

At Sheffield, in 1874, a mason died from the effects of *cat-bite.* He at once "fell into a desponding state, and sold his tools, remarking that he would never use them again." Then gradually he became "quite mad, showing all the symptoms of hydrophobia, and the still more painful and extraordinary manifestations of *cat madness.* The poor man would jump up like a dog, and emit a series of short sharp barks; he would then elevate his back and crouch like a cat, hissing and spitting all the while.....The cat has, of course, been destroyed." That animal had been bitten by a mad dog, and the then presumably mad cat had bitten a child and several grown-up persons—but without, to them, any ill result.‡

This case affords a good illustration, so far, of the development of what may be termed *bestial traits* in the spurious

* "North British Daily Mail," November 9, 1877.
† "Daily Telegraph," Feb. 19, 1874.
‡ "Glasgow Weekly Herald," Jany. 31, 1874.

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hydrophobia of man; the imitation, that is, of *canine* habits in cases resulting, or supposed to result, from dog-bite; and of *feline* ones in those from cat-bite.* For several reasons I hold the development of such symptoms to be proof of the paramount influence of a *morbid imagination*. In association with ignorance, such an imagination begets curious *errors in man's simulation* of what he conceives to be typical canine or feline hydrophobia. Hence, in the present instance, the curious blending of canine and feline symptoms, when only the latter should have been exhibited. The subject is, however, so interesting, that I must dwell at greater length upon it in a subsequent paper.

A drover, aged 30, called at the Infirmary of Leeds, in June, 1876, and "requested to be admitted to the Institution, as he was suffering from hydrophobia. When he first presented himself at the institution, it is stated that he appeared quite sane and self-possessed." He had, however, been previously treated in the same infirmary for hydrophobia. "Some time after his (second) admission, he began to exhibit the usual symptoms of madness, and died apparently in great agony." He had been bit in the hand by a retriever in March; the wound was then cauterised, and he seems to have been well in health till the middle of June, when he presented himself for the second and last time. †

A merchant in Liverpool died of so-called hydrophobia. He had been bitten nine months before; the wound had been cauterised and had healed. "But he never could prevent himself brooding over his injury." He took seriously ill suddenly and "died raving mad."‡

In this, as in so many other cases, instead of genuine hydrophobia, what we have to deal with apparently is *morbid fear* begetting *delusions* of fear, and then *acute mania*, with sometimes a hydrophobic facies; that is to say, we have as epiphenomena, or, as accessories, a series of symptoms that are popularly supposed to belong to hydrophobia, but which in truth are no necessary part of it.

A man at Leeds, who had been scratched by a *kitten*, "mewed like a cat, and showed a great aversion to water until he died." The same kitten had scratched "several other members of the family," and it does not appear that any of

* "The Animal World" (Vol. iv., 1873, p. 381), cites a case of hydrophobia from *cat-bite* in a man, who imitated the actions of a *cat*—not of a dog.

† "Glasgow Weekly Herald," June 17, 1876.

‡ "North British Daily Mail," November 21, 1876.

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them were affected.* This is merely an illustration of what is constantly occurring—that the same bite, or kind of bite, which is generally innocuous, proves fatal to some individuals, who must possess a special receptivity or impressionability, predisposition or idiosyncrasy, whatever be its nature. In a subsequent paper I will try to show that this peculiar liability to hydrophobia, from dog or cat bite, resides in naturally or morbidly timid, superstitious, illiterate persons in whom *delusional fear* is readily engendered.

The "Pall Mall Gazette" † gives a case of fatal hydrophobia—that of a young male farm servant, a lad of 17, in Kent. "The dog which bit him was then, and is—so far as we know to the contrary—perfectly well. Now this is a crucial case, and one which, we think, ought not to be lost sight of." The "British Medical Journal" ‡ mentions what is probably the same case in a lad bitten by a sheep dog, which "has, up to the present time, shown no signs of rabies."

A series of five cases in the Nottingham Hospital was recorded by Dr. Elder § in 1871, and in none is the dog that bit stated to have been rabietic. In one instance the patient had been playing with his own dog when bit, which he would never have done had there then existed in his mind even a suspicion of rabies in the animal. It was discovered, apparently *after* the development of hydrophobia in its master, that for some days previous to the incident the dog "had been shy and evidently out of sorts." But *ex post facto* discoveries of such a kind are obviously of little or no value. Again, two cases were described in the same year by Dr. Ellis, ‖ of Crouch Hall, Doncaster; and in neither was the dog reported to have been rabietic. ¶ At a meeting of the West Somerset Branch of the British Medical Association at Taunton, in April last, Dr. Norris read a paper on "A case of hydrophobia or its *Eikon.*" "The case," we are told, "presented features involving doubts whether the patient, a man aged 42, who died after seven days' acute illness, had really been bitten; and if so, whether his dog, which he

* "North British Advertiser," August 26, 1876.
† Of November 5, 1877, p. 10.
‡ Of November, 17, 1877, p. 720.
§ "British Medical Journal," December 2, 1871.
‖ *Ibid.* May 6, 1871, p. 474.
¶ There is an excellent common-sense article on the question—"Is there evidence sufficient to warrant us in connecting the group of symptoms which we term hydrophobia with the bite of a rabid animal?" by Dr. Burder, of Bristol, in the "British Medical Journal," October 26, 1872, p. 462.

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had caused to be destroyed six weeks previously, really was affected with rabies." *

Dr. Rigden, of Canterbury, published in 1876 a fatal case of hydrophobia in a man who had been bitten by a dog "supposed to be suffering from *distemper*." "The man himself had suffered from nervous depression." "The great repugnance to the sight of fluids" which existed in this case, as in so many others of spurious hydrophobia, curiously enough "did not extend to the sight of his own urine."† "Hydrophobia Nine Months after the Bite of a Dog" is the title of a paper by Dr. Newman, of Alrewas, Staffordshire, in 1872. It is not alleged that the said dog was mad, nor was there any evidence to this effect. The wound was freely cauterised within half-an-hour of the bite; it healed well; and there was no feeling of inconvenience for nine months. Another patient, however, bitten by the same dog, died in two months.‡ In another case, fatal four months after the bite, it is not asserted that the biting dog was mad.§ On the other hand, Dr. Fothergill, of Darlington, recorded a case in 1871, from the bite of a dog, "which *afterwards* proved to be mad;"‖ a statement not quite reconcilable with the opinion of those who believe that there is no danger to man from dog bite during the stage of *incubation* (of rabies) in the animal.

An instance, in a woman, of spurious hydrophobia lasting over two years, was given by Dr. Bostock, of Horsham, Sussex, in 1876.¶

*Foreign* cases of spurious hydrophobia do not differ in their essential characters from British ones. A curious instance of *annual* or periodic so-called "hydrophobia" occurred in Augusta (Maine, U.S.) in 1876. The patient—a gentleman—was bitten twelve years before, "and since that time annually, and *only once a year*, he is afflicted by these manifestations that greatly *resemble hydrophobia*." He feels the fit coming on, "and takes the precaution to lie down; or otherwise he has a desire to pursue and bite whoever may come in his way." He had something of the character of a fit, partly apparently of an epileptoid character; for "most severe convulsions" are described, while there were also frothing at the mouth, and rolling on the ground. He made

* "British Medical Journal," June 2, 1877, p. 697.
† *Ibid.* December 23, 1876, p. 827.
‡ *Idid.* May 4, 1872, p. 471.
§ *Ibid.* August 12, 1871, p. 183.
‖ *Ibid.*, p. 264.
¶ *Ibid.*, October 14, 1876, p. 509.

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a noise somewhat similar to the barking of a dog, "and he would also try to bite."* In a less recent American case, "the man was in convulsions, barking like a dog, frothing at the mouth, and making strenuous efforts to bite everything that came near..... He would seize the pillows from his bed in his teeth, and shake and rend them with all the seeming ferocity of an angry dog. An intense dread of water also exhibited itself."†

Dr. Hall, an American writer, referring to a man who had "angered" a dog by drawing it forth from under a sofa and whipping it, states that "while doing so, the dog managed to snap a piece of the flesh out of the man's arm, and he died in a few days, in East Newark, New Jersey, in all the horrors of hydrophobia."‡

Such a case opens up the most important questions – such as (1), whether the bite of a *healthy* animal can produce fatal injury or disease in man; and (2), whether such injury or disease in man is the same or different when the biting animal is in a condition of marked mental excitement or depression. The whole subject of the results in man of *animal bites* is one of such moment that I propose returning to it in connection with the influence of *imagination* in the production of the result, whatever it be.

Dodge, in his "Great West" of North America, (p. 94), says that in a certain territory, the bite of the *Skunk* is "almost invariably followed by that most horrible of all horrors—hydrophobia;" that is the bite of the *healthy* or non-rabietic animal, for he takes care to explain,—"It does not follow that the skunk is himself afflicted with the malady;" in fact no case is given of its having been so affected, or even suspected of having been so." And he adds (p. 95),—"Though I have seen many dogs bitten by skunks, I have never known a dog or other lower animal to go mad from such a bite." Here we have apparently the popular belief that the bite of the skunk, a much detested animal, is as dangerous as that of the "mad" dog, leading to the development in man of hydrophobia, that must be considered "spurious" in its character.

In an obituary notice of Dr. Simpson, of Clarendon,

* The "Augusta Journal," an American newspaper—quoted by the "North British Daily Mail," of August 23rd, 1876.

† "Detroit Tribune," quoted in the "North British Daily Mail," of October 22, 1872.

‡ In his "How to Live Long," 1875, p. 33.

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Jamaica, whose death was ascribed to hydrophobia, it is nevertheless stated that (1) the dog that had bit him some months before was then still alive, and had never shown any symptoms of rabies; and (2) that the deceased had scratched his thumb while making a *post mortem* examination.*

An instance of death of a boy from *fright* after a *rat-bite* in India, was narrated by Dr. Matthew, an Indian army surgeon, in 1875. The native police regarded the fatal issue as attributable to rat-bite; but medical opinion held that "death could not have been caused by the bite of the rat, or anything else in so short a time. I conclude that the boy died of fright."†

A man in the hospital of St. Giacomo, at Rome, who had been bitten by a dog, "supposed to be mad,..... ..... had such *fear* of hydrophobia, that he jumped from the top window.....and was crushed in the most horrible manner."‡

This is a good illustration both of *suicide* from morbid fear.—the special fear being that of a certain death from the most terrible of all human maladies—and of morbid *mental* symptoms being sometimes the only ones developed in cases of dog bite. Of two American (New York) cases of alleged hydrophobia, "one man.....became a *maniac* owing to his *fear* of the disease;" while another "sensitive person sank under nervous excitement resulting from fear of it."§ The attack is attended with, or ushered in by "circumstances so horrible as in many cases to upset the *mind* long before the time when the body is in danger."‖ A lad of 17, in London, a sufferer from hydrophobia, was affected with *melancholia* of a suicidal kind; "he had once attempted to commit suicide,"¶ we are told. A case of suicide of a girl from fear of hydrophobia from dog bite was recorded in the Bradford newspapers in June, 1877.

The foregoing cases have been quoted from newspapers or journals of *recent* date, that is of date since 1870. But any one who will take the trouble to consult medical or veterinary journals of earlier dates will have no difficulty in discovering hosts of similar incidents; and he may add to his collection

* "Journal of Mental Science," April 1873, p. 167.
† "British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review," January 1876, p. 240.
‡ "Edinburgh Courant," April 28, 1874.
§ "London Medical Record," as quoted in the "North British Daily Mail," July 25, 1874; and "Edinburgh Courant," July 18, 1874.
‖ The "Field" (newspaper) of October 19, 1872.
¶ "British Medical Journal," March 17, 1877, p. 325.

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of cases if he further consult various books on medical and veterinary subjects.

One of the most eminent of English veterinarians, Wm. Youatt, long ago "kept a record of 400 persons who had recourse to his assistance after having been bitten by *really rabid* animals; and although one died of *fright*, not one had hydrophobia, which .....if confirmed leaves little ground for apprehension to any one who had applied for surgical assistance."*

Another eminent English veterinary surgeon, one of our own day,† thus writes:—"It is wonderful how injuriously the *mind* may be acted on in such circumstances, and actual disease, although not the fatal one, propagated in people of certain nervous and susceptible temperaments, when there is really no apparent—and, I would add, possible—danger to be apprehended."‡ Hence he very wisely recommends the *cheering* or amusing treatment of those *malades imaginaires*, who are "inclined to take a gloomy view" of their case,—who believe themselves doomed to death by hydrophobia—sometimes even without having been actually bitten by a dog at all. In other words, it ought to be the business no less of the physician than of all such a patient's friends and consolers, clerical or lay, to *divert* his thoughts by all means from the depressing subject, and where sufficient intelligence exists, to point out the absence of any real danger and the absurdity of groundless alarm. This is just what ought to be done, but is not,—in all other forms of delusional melancholia—in their early and curative stages.

And Mr. Cowie's opinion as to the wonderful influence or operation on or of the *mind* in connection with spurious hydrophobia is echoed by the Press in all parts of the country. "Most of the deaths recently declared by frightened jurymen to be caused by hydrophobia, were, it seems to us, really caused by *superstitious terror*. Died of fright would have been a more appropriate verdict. . . . We cannot rationally account for a number of dog-bites, some weeks old, some

* Notice in "British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review," (for October, 1874, p. 350), of the chapter on *Hydrophobia*, contained in "Contributions to Pathology and Surgery," by Cæsar H. Hawkins, F.R.S. (1874). The same remarkable circumstance is alluded to in an article on "Mad Dogs," by Wm. Chambers, LL.D., in "Chambers' Journal" for June, 1874, p. 403.

† James Cowie, M.R.C.V.S., of Sundridge Hall, Bromley, Kent, now retired from practice, who writes the article, *Rabies*, in "Chambers' Encyclopædia," and has also published a pamphlet on "Rabies, or Madness in the Dog," a lecture delivered at the Royal Veterinary College, London, on 29th February, 1876.

‡ In his pamphlet above mentioned, p. 18.

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months old, some years old, terminating in death as soon as one or two cases of hydrophobia are reported in the papers, except on the theory that *fright* has a good deal to do with it."* "Nothing in the category of disease more afflicts the *mind* than the possibility of falling a victim to this hitherto fatal ailment, and the nameless horrors which are supposed to attend it."† "There is reason to believe that the hydrophobia exhibited by certain nervous women is frequently occasioned by nothing else than the struggle which goes on between *fear* and the will to swallow."‡

Druitt points out that hydrophobia may be simulated by *hysteria*, delirium tremens and phrenitis, in some of their many forms. Such simulated cases—of what he calls "spontaneous" hydrophobia— usually occur in hysterical women, or in male drunkards. "As we know that *hysteria*§ may simulate any disease that can be named, nothing can be more likely than that if a hysterical or nervous person have been bitten by any dog or cat, healthy or otherwise, the fears of the consequences and knowledge of the symptoms of hydrophobia will suffice to bring on a simulated attack. Or, again, if a person be affected with any form of *delirium* after an accidental bite, what can be more likely than that hydrophobia will be the leading subject of his ravings?"‖ And the same able and experienced London surgeon remarks on the extreme difficulty of diagnosis sometimes between such spurious and genuine hydrophobia.¶

There is a very instructive parallelism between the effects of dog-bite in Britain and of *arrow poison* in the South Sea Islands, to which attention was not long since directed by Dr. Messer, R.N., who accompanied Commander Goodenough when the latter was fatally wounded by the poisoned arrows shot by the natives of one of these Islands, that of Santa

* "Pall Mall Gazette," November 5, 1877, p. 10.

† "Times," commenting on the curative Experiments of Dr. Offenburg, of Munster, Westphalia, as quoted by the "Dundee Courier,' of November 15, 1877.

‡ "The Will as a Therapeutic Means," by Professor Joly, a paper read before the Académie des Sciences of Paris, in 1875, and quoted in the "British Medical Journal," for November, 20, 1875, p. 650.

§ What he called "mental hydrophobia," an imaginary malady of a *hysterical* nature, was described by Trousseau, according to Fleming ["Rabies," pp. 262-3]; who himself cites various cases of pseudo or imaginary hydrophobia in man, (p. 263), and points out the resemblance of hydrophobia to *mania*, (p. 264).

‖ "The Surgeon's Vade Mecum," 5th ed., 1851, p. 160. Compare what he says of "Hysterical Tetanus," p. 21.

¶ *Ibid.*, p. 161. Illustrations are quoted from the "London Medical Gazette," (of November 4, 1837), and the "Lancet" (vol. for 1838-9, p. 582).

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Cruz, in the summer (August) of 1875. Dr. Messer has shown that the *tetanus* which so generally follows wounds, however slight, by such poisoned arrows, or arrow-poison, or which arises from supposed wounds or poison—is, like hydrophobia, frequently at least, the result of *fear and mental derangement*, not of a specific tetanus-producing poison.* He evidently thinks that "Fear and mental emotion are strongly predisposing causes of tetanus, if not actual producers of it, when they are associated with a wound under certain conditions of climate and hygiene;" and he concludes or argues that "the removal of such a *bugbear* as the dread of the poison would take away one of the chief features in inducing tetanus to follow these wounds."† "It appeared pretty plainly," says the "Pall Mall Gazette,"‡ "that those so wounded who thought they would die, did die; . . and we suspect much the same sort of thing is going on now" as regards hydrophobia in London. The parallelism between dog-bites and arrow-wounds is further borne out by the fact that many "medical men of eminent scientific attainments do not believe in what is called hydrophobia and only recognise it as *tetanus* . . . caused by wounds such as crushed thumb, a puncture, or a scratch with a rusty prong or nail." § A case of alleged hydrophobia was quite recently given by Dr. Power, of Dartmoor, in which the symptoms resulting from dog-bite were those simply of that form or degree of tetanus, known as trismus or locked jaw.‖

Hitherto, I have been illustrating imagination in connection with *fear* in the production of a spurious hydrophobia. But there is a *per contra*, which is quite as curious and as deserving of notice, viz., imagination in connection with *faith*, in the so-called "cure" of hydrophobia, real or spurious. It is apparently to faith, for instance, that we must ascribe the quack cures of hydrophobia by all manner of vaunted specifics. The cure—where there has been recovery from hydrophobia at all—has been of a *mental* kind, by means, to wit, of faith in the efficacy of a certain remedy, or the ability of a certain quack, or of both. And this sort of faith, however it may be rooted in, or based upon the grossest superstition and ignorance, is not a thing to be

* "North British Daily Mail," January 2nd, 1877.
† "Daily Review," January 3, 1877.
‡ Of November 5, 1877, p. 10.
§ "Pall Mall Gazette," November 5, 1877, p. 10.
‖ "British Medical Journal," November 17, 1877, p. 693. Compare what Druitt says of the "Causes" of ordinary tetanus (p. 16), and of its "Diagnosis" from hydrophobia (p. 15).

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despised either in itself, or its results. On the contrary, faith or confidence is the one thing above all others that must be inspired in panics of all kinds. At present, however, I must not enlarge upon such a subject. All that I can here do, is to point out shortly the character of the so-called "cures" of hydrophobia by this or that popular specific.

Records of eight cases of such *cures* have been given us by Dr. Prince. In one of them (case VII.), the patient, a short time after being bitten by a "mad dog," "became very unwell and *melancholy*. . . . He was persuaded to take the medicine" [Dampier's powder, or its modern equivalent], "and he *immediately* recovered his usual health and spirits." In another (case IX), "a dog was found to be unwell," and while so it bit a man. "As the dog some time *afterwards* became the subject of rabies, the person procured some" of the Sussex specific, "which had a very remarkable effect; the healed wound smarting, re-opening, and discharging pus for two or three hours, and then healing again. This person never felt ill effects from the bite, and is now alive."*

And such records are by a physician of good repute in Sussex.†

Obviously, in such cases, before we can entertain the idea of "cure" at all, we must have some proper evidence—

1.—That the dogs that bit were rabietic.

2.—That the men affected were the subjects of genuine hydrophobia; and

3.—That, being so, they would not have recovered but for the use of the quack nostrum resorted to.

A woman in Richmond (Virginia), cured 300 cases of hydrophobia by means of a *madstone* applied to the bitten spot—the charge being 150 dollars for each application. "The stone has to remain twelve hours each time.....Its application has been entirely successful in every case—no person ever experiencing any trouble afterwards from the bite." In one case we are told that the madstone "on the *first application* afforded her great relief, and she is now in good spirits and feeling no pain or inconvenience whatever from the bite."‡

"Dr. Offenburg has recently drawn attention to a case

* "Field," October 19th, 1872, p. 369.

† Probably now of Tunbridge Wells, Kent; the author of a paper, on "The use of *Lichen cinereo-terrestris* as a Preventive to Hydrophobia." ["British Medical Journal," 1872.]

‡ "North British Daily Mail," January 15, 1874, quoting from American newspapers.

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of so-called hydrophobia successfully treated with curare. We have before us Dr. Offenburg's thesis, containing all the details of the case. It is, however, impossible to read it with care without seeing that it is extremely doubtful whether the case was one of hydrophobia. Judged by the description which the author himself gives, it might be pronounced a case of *hysteria*, of which it has all the characteristic symptoms."*

"We all know how, in Goldsmith's imitative ballad—

'The dog, to gain some private end,
Went mad and bit the man.'

"And we also know that to the surprise of all Islington—

'The *man recovered* of the bite,
The *dog* it was *that died.*'

"There is a moral in the Doctor's nonsense."† But a consideration of his moral, as well as of that to be drawn from the remarkable series of incidents narrated in the foregoing pages must be deferred; perhaps to be dwelt upon, with the fulness to which its importance entitles it, in some future contribution to the "Journal of Mental Science."

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*The Physiology of some Phases of the Poetic Mind.* By Fredkrick Treves, M.R.C.S.

As the knowledge and appreciation of light are rendered more distinctive by the near presence of a shade, and as the idea of absolute smoothness is presented to the mind with a keener readiness when viewed in relation to an inequality of surface; so in mental science such phenomena as are normal, and therefore in a sense unvaried, are better known when studied in connection with others that are abnormal, and in consequence more clearly to be individualised.

The pursuit of psychology has a difficulty that no other science can possess; and it is this—that the object examined and the subject examining are similar, or differ only in the slighter details. Mind is brought to examine mind, as a lens would be to examine a lens; so that simply to observe and to record facts, the very first and most elementary principle in all science, is in this branch of knowledge fraught with difficulty and obscured by doubt. The obser-

* "British Medical Journal," November 17, 1877, p. 708.
† Article on "Dogs" in the "Graphic," September 9, 1871.

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