

*The Carter - Jenkins
Center
presents*



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Psychogenic (PNES) Epilepsy

by

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1) A brief history of epilepsy*

2) What is PNES?**

3) What causes it?

4) Best diagnostic method

* <http://libray.thinkquest.org/j001610/history.html>

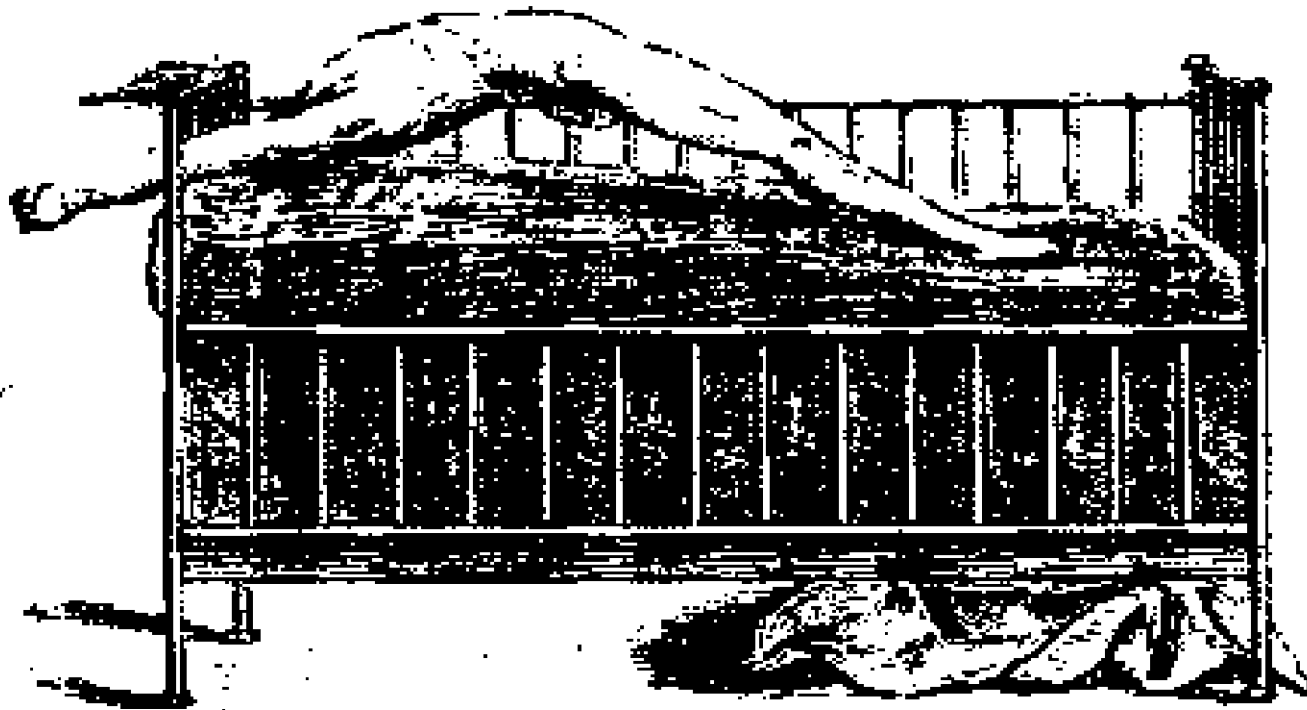
** http://www.epilepsy.com/articles/ar_1112967056

Charcot a la Salpetriere



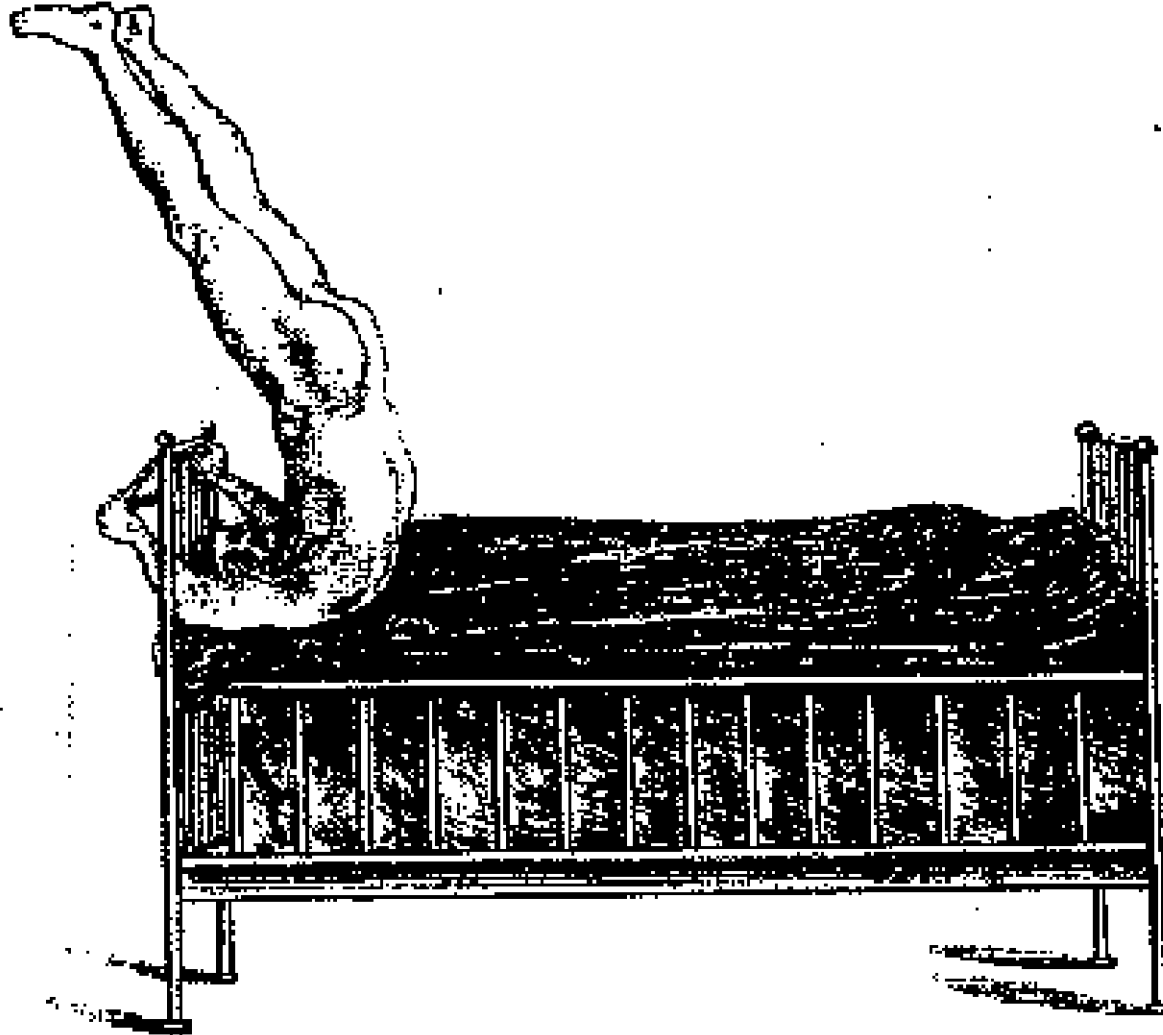
The drawings show positions during an attack of Grande Hysterie (Charcot)

Fig. 28.

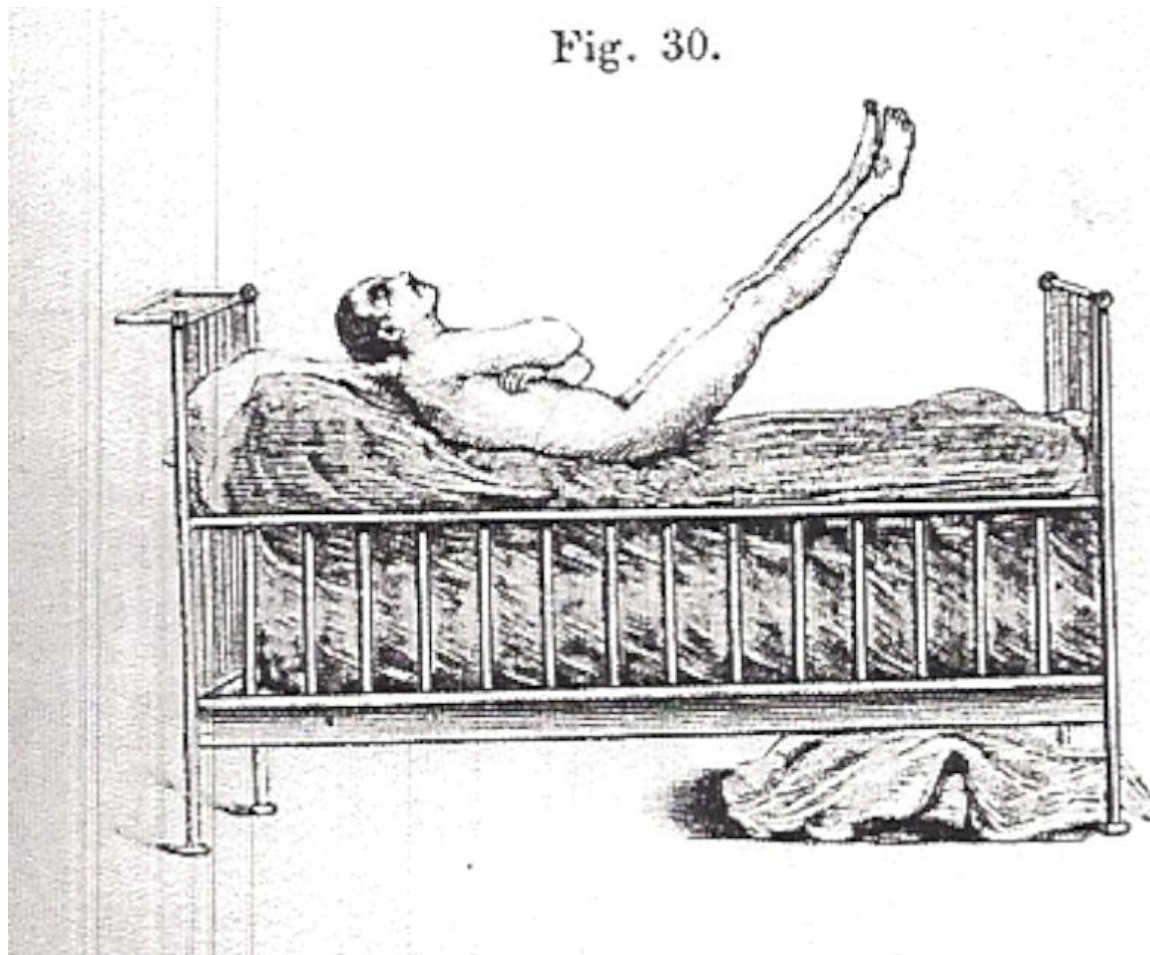


The Grande Hysterie (Charcot's Lectures)

Fig. 29.



The Grande Hysterie (Charcot)



Psychogenic Epilepsy

- **Around 26 to 30% of patients with refractory seizures have mostly psychogenic seizures (Benbadis)**
- **Psychiatrists nowadays generally do not see these patients. They are referred to neurologists, more so since the advent of EEG equipment.**
- **But 40 years ago hysterical conversions (including seizures) were quite common in psychiatric practices**

Psychogenic Epilepsy

- **A) Hysterical conversions include a wide array of manifestations such as psychogenic seizures, paresis and paralysis of many types, psychogenic paraplegias and hemiplegias, psychogenic blindness, tunnel vision, psychogenic deafness and so on**
- **B) It was not uncommon either, to see seizure like movements, accompanied by a thrusting of the pelvis back and forth, in women that had been abused sexually as children**

Psychogenic Epilepsy

- **C) Conversions are not as common now. They have been supplanted by others forms of expression of psychopathology, though the reasons explaining this are not completely clear**
- **D) Hysterical character disorders, borderline personalities, depression etc, have come to take their place**

Psychogenic Epilepsy

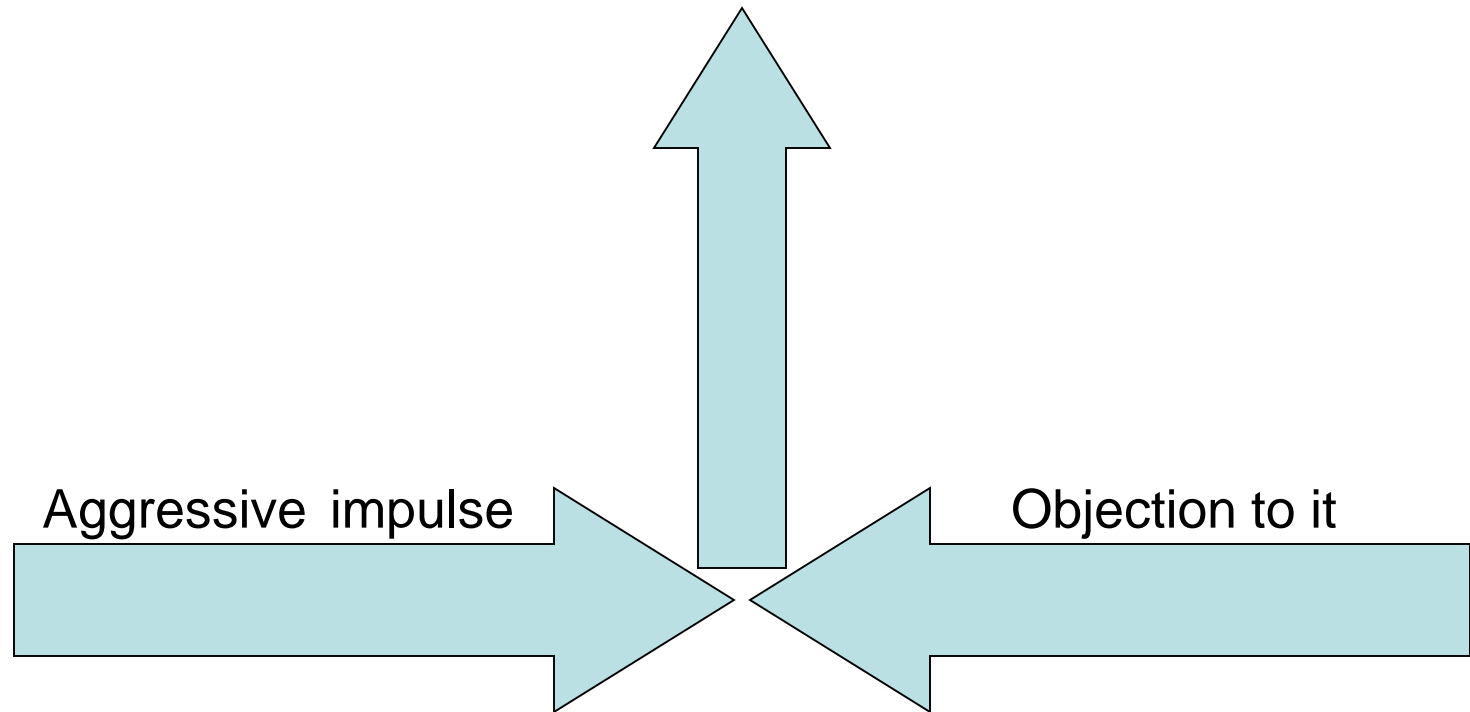
- **II) Psychogenic epilepsy = Conversion Hysteria. There is no malingering involved**
- **III) Definition of conversion hysteria: Symptoms of a certain type that result from psychological forces that are in conflict. These conflicts tend to take place at a certain developmental stage**
- **IV) Hysterical symptoms have meaning and serve a function as you will see in the next example**

Psychogenic Epilepsy

- V) The symptom or symptoms frequently represent symbolically the psychological forces that are in conflict. Example of paralyzed closed fist about to strike, but arm stopped half way. (SEE NEXT SLIDE)
- VI) You can see in the previous drawing what is meant by a compromise formation.
- VII) They represent as well a solution to a psychic conflict...but a better more adaptive solution must be found

Forces in conflict & compromise formation

- Compromise Formation: Paralyzed arm and fist



(BACK)

Psychogenic Epilepsy

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Psychogenic Epilepsy

- **VIII) Treatment by suggestion (direct, placebos or hypnotic suggestions) may suppress symptoms. *Ex of hysterical epidemic in manganese mines (capable of producing neurological damage). Describe treatment by hypnosis and suppression of symptoms by suggestion. Describe procedure used.***
- **IX) Complications of that procedure with return of symptoms or even of worse symptoms.**

Psychogenic Epilepsy

- **X) Thus we learned to substitute the symptom for another more benign, particularly in cases of patients coming from far away**
- **XI) Freud used hypnosis to go back in time, to find out what forces in conflict led to this type of resolution at the moment that the symptoms happened, and then worked from there**
- **XII) The problem is that not everyone is a good hypnotic subject**

Psychogenic Epilepsy

- **XIII) Different forms of psychotherapy can be used, dynamic, cognitive, narco-analysis, etc**
- **XIV) Many hysterical conversions take place in somewhat primitive, uneducated people (though not only). This type of patient may not lend itself as well for dynamics forms of psychotherapy**

For any further information about:

THE CARTER JENKINS CENTER

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of professionals and communities all over the world)

or

To see “Self Learning in the Behavioral Sciences ”
and the many lectures on mental health available

free

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www.thecjc.org

Thanks for your interest and attention.

Questions?

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The End

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