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# NINETEENTH CENTURY U.S. NEWSPAPERS

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### ANALYZE THE HISTORY AND IMPACT OF HYSTERIA

Hysteria was once a common diagnosis to explain everything from general emotional expression to severe depression and even criminal behavior. Search *Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers* to discover how this label impacted medical treatment and social perception of women for generations.

*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 1 Mar. 1887, p. 7.

#### HYSTERIA A MALADY.

#### How It Affects the Different Classes of Humanity.

"hysteria is a disease...in which there is loss of will power.."

onomous with intentional simulation, and

"It is an affection that will simulate almost any disease..."

the control of the will of the person in whom

"...some of these cases are purely cases of deception..."

*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 2 Sep. 1876, p. 2.

#### A Singular Case of Hysteria—Remarkable Condition of Two Girls in Cohoes.

[From the Troy (N. Y.) Times.]

Many conflicting statements have been made relative to the condition of the two girls re-

"Miss Liscorbo's parents...profess not to believe that they are bewitched. When first taken, it was given out that an overdose of laudanum was the cause."

*Daily Evening Bulletin*, 25 Nov. 1884, p. 4.

EXTRAORDINARY HYSTERIA.—Mr. Charcot describes a hysterical patient who slept uninterruptedly for fifty-four days. The noise of a gong beaten violently at her bedside was unperceived, yet she was able to eat and drink, and all the functions con-

"Mr. Charcot describes a hysterical patient who slept uninterruptedly for fifty-four days...The awakening was spontaneous and found the patient in good health."

*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 26 June 1887, p. 12.

#### A Victim of Hysteria.

The case of the girl Annie Kalkhorst, employed as a servant at 2606 Gamble street, who claimed that an attempt had been made to ravish her in the woodshed in the rear of the

"...[Dr. Dorsett] says that she may easily have gagged herself in the manner in which she was found, as women in this condition have been known to do."

*Milwaukee Daily Sentinel*, 16 June 1889, p. 14.

#### HOW HYSTERIA MAY BE CURED.

Boston Herald: A patient in one of the hospitals here had a habit of going into a convulsion every time the house physician stepped into her ward. That grew decidedly monotonous after a while and one

"[The physician] then informed her that the next attack she had he proposed to drown her in the bath tub...she never had another attack..."

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