

NOTES FROM BOOKS JAN. 28, 1898.On Chorea Osler.From E. Osborn

East Hampton, L. I.

Jan. 28, 1898.

My Dear Doctor,

Your favor of 26th. at hand.

Respecting cases of chorea now progressing in this town. There are two fully developed instances hereditary, now going on. They are dreadful subjects, the disease at its very worst. Entirely distinct families, one male one female.

There are other cases in these same families, in which young adults already manifest symptoms. The disease has existed in both these families from their earliest history, two hundred years ago.

There are two or more other families here, in which the disease is hereditary, and in which it appears, but not at present in active symptoms, later there will be cases in these families, as the diseased now disappears.

In one of these families where it now appears, it is hereditary on both sides. The father and the mother each inheriting. So long as there is the taint, it shows, and near or remote.

Some person here says that when the disease outsepts one generation it lapses for ever, but I think not. The last person who dies here was very typical one, but strange to say, not known to be in any way related to the disease, neither father or mother on inheriting. He was a man, developing at the usual time after thrity or forty years, and had all the usual and regular symptoms and course of the malady.

On investigating the history, it transpired that he was the illegitimate son of one of these chorea families, and the father was not a very bad case.

If I can at any time help you in any way in your researches in this direction, I shall be very glad to do so. Should you come at any time to Long Island there will be no difficulty in the way of meeting one of these present, active cases.

Very truly yours,  
E. Osborn.

P.T.O.

LETTER FROM DOCTOR J. W. OSBORN

P.S.

Every family in which chorea appears in East Hampton, has had it since the earliest history two hundred years or more ago.

It does not attack every member of a family, in which it appears rather certain susceptible ones.

E. Osborn.

My Dear Doctor,

Your favor of 23rd. is recd.

Respecting cases of chorea now progressing in this town. There are two fully developed instances, I believe, now going on. They are in the same family, the disease in the very worst. Entirely distinct families, one male one female.

There are other cases in these same families, in which young adults already manifested symptoms. The disease has existed in both these families from their earliest history, two hundred years ago.

There are two or more of the families here, in which the disease is hereditary, and in which it appears, but not as frequent in active symptoms. Later there will be cases in these families, as the disease now disappears.

In one of these families there is now a case, it is hereditary on both sides. The father and the mother each inherited it long as there is the same, it shows, and

Some persons have said that when the disease commences one can question it passes for ever, and I think not. The last person who also had was very typical one, but contrary to say, and seems to be in any way related to the disease, neither father or mother on his side. He was a man, developing at the usual time after thirty or forty years, and had all the usual and regular symptoms and course of the disease.

On investigating the history, it transpired that he was the illegitimate son of one of these chorea families, and the father was not a very bad case.

If I can at any time help you in your studies in this direction, I will be very glad to do so. Should you come at any time to my farm, there will be no difficulty in the way of meeting one of these families, active cases.

J. W. O.