

the different ganglia and sympathetic plexus of the abdomen have a certain but very inconstant influence on the intestinal secretions, the nature of the intestinal evacuations, and on the general nutrition."....."The centre of the vasomotor nerves of the liver, and appears to be in the brain. We ourselves frequently noticed the occurrence of hemorrhagic diarrhoea in dogs after injury of the different parts of the *cerebellum*."....."That also the vasomotor nerves of other abdominal organs and of the whole *genital* apparatus are included in the trunk of the sympathetic is undeniable from the anatomical point of view."....."As for the vessels of the *penis* we know from the researches of 'LÖVEN' that irritation of the *nervi exigentes* results in relaxation of the arteries."

I have now anatomically, and physiologically, through "Eulenburg," "Gutman" and "Löven," proved to you the union that exists between the cerebellum and the organs of generation, as I have given you physiological and pathological proof that it is the cerebellum that suffers most from dissolution in consecutive chronic dementia, and not only that it suffers most, but that it suffers very much, so that it either becomes disorganized or atrophied. I have also shown you that in this form of dementia there is exhaustion of the whole nervous system, just as great a nerve exhaustion, as we would expect to find in the unfortunate creature that was tortured upon the rack.

Possessed of the foregoing knowledge, and from my own experience, my testimony was, in the case I have stated to you, that the crime was a physical impossibility, and I now appeal to this Society to say, was I, or was I not, justified in saying it was a physical impossibility? and in forming your opinion you will remember that it is a very important medico-legal question; and remember the question is not, could there, under such circumstances, be seminal emission? for, according to the reports of jail surgeons, that frequently takes place when a man is hanged, and every physician knows that it frequently takes place in the last death agony, as does evacuation from the bowels. The question is could a man for example suffering from such a disease as I have described co-habit with his wife, if he had the desire to do so. If he could, then the crime could have been committed; if he could not, then the crime could not

have been committed. Remember I don't say that, under such circumstances there could be *desire*, for I don't believe there could, but, for the sake of argument, granting that there could, would it follow that there could be priapism; would it follow that the solitary vice of self-abuse could be accomplished. Every medical man of large experience, more particularly those connected with lunatic asylums, knows that long-continued self-abuse, by those with an insane neurosis, not only terminates in dementia but also in impotency, even much sooner than those who indulge in excessive sexual indulgence. I presume the cause is that, in the former, there is most perieprial nerve irritation. That, however, as it may be, it is another mode by which the fact is established of the union between the brain and nerve, the cerebellum and the organs of generation. In passing, sir, I might remark that the cerebellum plays a most important part, through the medium of the great sympathetic, with the whole of the abdominal viscera, a knowledge of which may assist us to explain some facts heretofore difficult to comprehend. For example, at one of our late meetings a case was read of typhoid fever where the patient died suddenly from a gush of blood from the intestines, and the post-mortem examination threw no light upon the cause of the hemorrhage. Perhaps if our worthy pathologist had in that case thought of examining the cerebellum he would there have found the explanation, for there is no reason why, if irritation of the cerebellum of the dog produces in that animal bloody flux, that, under certain circumstances, it would not do the same in a human being, and particularly so in a case of typhoid fever where the *nidus* for the typhoid germ is in the mucous membrane of the small intestines. I was so struck at the time with the case that I allude to, that I thought these few remarks in connection with the subject of my paper would be an allowable digression. I beg, however, that it may not draw the attention of the Society from the important medico-legal question I have brought before it.

The proceedings of the McGill College Medical Convocation are crowded out of this issue. They will appear in our next.