

## Miscellaneous.

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### THE TREATMENT OF MENSTRUAL DISORDERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CASES IN WOMEN SUFFERING FROM MENTAL DISEASES.

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The connection between disorders of menstruation and disorders of the brain and nervous system has long been an established fact. The dependence of the psychic functions of women upon the menstrual function, the effects of the menopause upon mentality, are all subjects that have received the attention of clinicians for many years. It is a well-known fact, correlated to the peculiar connection between the mind and sexual apparatus, that amenorrhea is not infrequently met with in the insane. The problem as to how to treat insanity is one of the most difficult in therapeutics; and in the modern conception of this treatment all agents that tend directly or indirectly to further the equilibration of the mental functions have a legitimate place.

One of the most difficult phases of this problem is the treatment of the menstrual disorders in insane women, and the importance of correcting any such disorders in this class of patients is realized by all who are aware of the fact noted by numerous clinicians, that the improvement of the menstrual function leads to a marked amelioration in the mentality of these patients in very many instances.

In an institution like the hospital with which I am connected, we naturally come face to face frequently enough with the question of treating the amenorrhea that is noted as an accompaniment of mental disease, and for a long time I have been experimenting with various therapeutic agents recommended for the treatment of menstrual disorders without obtaining perfect satisfaction from any, until I tried the method of treatment which I am about to describe.

What I was looking for was a safe and efficient emmenagogue, which gave positive results in cases of amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, and suppressed menstruation, without either exciting or depressing the patient, without causing any disturbances on the part of the digestive tract, or the urinary tract, such as are met with in the use of most of the remedies classed as emmenagogues.