

# THE MEDICAL CHRONICLE.

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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. XXXIII.—*Clinical Selections.* By WM. WRIGHT, M.D., L.R.C.S.E.,  
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### III.—*Menstruatio Recidiva after 17 years' cessation.*

The form of rejuvenescence stated in the above heading, is one of the most rare with which we are acquainted. Dr. Mehliss, in the year 1838, published a treatise on the virilecence and rejuvenescence of animals, and of the total number of instances that had occurred to that time, there were only 10 of menstruation recurring in women advanced in life. Many more had been reported as instances of this anomaly, but upon careful scrutiny they proved to be simply "old wives' fables," and therefore had to be rejected, reducing the bona fide cases to the number stated.

Since the date of Dr. M.'s work to the present time, I have only been able to collect four cases entitled to implicit confidence, and have met with one which is now under my observation.

Of those selected, the most extraordinary is that given by Velasquez, of Tarentum, of the Abbess of Monoicairo, who at the age of 100, after a severe illness, had a recurrence of the catamenia, and not only this event, but a new set of teeth, and a fresh head of hair appeared. Next in point of interest to the above, is that of two nuns, a synopsis of which is to be found in the *Lancet* for 1846. In those ladies, menstruation recurred several years after it had ceased, and continued to a very advanced age. In one, the function had stopped at the age of 52, recurred at the age of 62, and continued with perfect regularity for 11 years, when the fact was recorded. In the other, the discharge ceased at the age of 52 also, recurred at 60, and had continued up to the date of the report, when the patient had attained four score years and ten of existence.

Although the case personally known to me is perhaps not so wonder-