

proper physiological condition; although in the latter two examples the effort was misdirected.

When we study the phenomena manifest in the vomiting of pregnancy we may see that it also is a misguided effort on the part of the organism to free itself from a condition that while it may be physiological, yet it has not been customary to the individual. The presence of the fetus in the uterus produces a continuation of stimuli. These stimuli may go to the spinal cord and cause a reflex which acts directly on the uterus itself, causing contractions of its fibres, and thereby producing an evacuation of its contents, in which case the organism has succeeded in removing from itself the offending object.

The stimuli may, however, be carried to the medulla, in all probability, along the pneumogastric nerve through its branches from the hypogastric plexus. These stimuli on reaching the medulla may be reflected from the vomiting or other important centres situated there along the pneumogastric nerve to the muscular part of the walls of the stomach, and cause irregular contractions tending to induce nausea, vomiting, etc., and along other nerves assisting in producing the same or other results. Thus, in one person we may have nausea, in another vomiting, in another anorexia; others, again, may have a perverted appetite with a desire for various articles of food, nutritious or otherwise, and again others may have increased appetite with improved digestion. These variations depend to a great extent on the character of the stimuli, the condition of nervous excitability of the individual, the mode of onset of the irritation, and the power of adaptability of the individual to her changed condition.

The disturbance in the person's system may not be in proportion to the strength of the stimuli, for in cases of twin pregnancies where the increased rapidity of enlargement of the uterus would lead us to infer increase in number or strength of the stimuli the amount of disturbance to the individual may not be correspondingly increased.

In the same way a slight irritation applied to the sole of the foot may cause the sensation of tickling, and produce a reflex causing the foot and leg to be jerked away suddenly, and a shudder to pass over the entire body. If, however, the irritation be increased to that of moderate intensity we may produce a pleasant sensation of itching being relieved, and tend to cause no reflex response. Again, if the irritation be further increased we have a painful sensation produced, and an irresistible desire to draw the foot away.