

Tubal pregnancy may be closely simulated by a retroverted or laterally deviated gravid uterus, and by a small ovarian cyst or distended tube associated with an early impending miscarriage.

#### OF THE MENOPAUSE.

Normally, the menopause is no more a critical period than is puberty; the cessation of menstruation should be as uneventful as its onset, but both epochs are liable to be associated with some functional disturbance. The menopause may engender functional disorders but does not cause disease. Disease may, however, be synchronous with the menopause.

Menstrual infrequency or diminution in the flow may be functional, and attributable to the approaching menopause.

Increase in the frequency or the amount of loss is due to disease.

Increase in hemorrhage at or near the time of the menopause, or any hemorrhage at all after the menopause, renders an immediate examination necessary.

The menopause does not cure disease any more than it causes it. To tell a patient to wait for the menopause is as bad as sending her to a quack.

#### OF SYMPTOMATIC DISORDERS.

Dysmenorrhœa and menorrhagia are not pathological entities, but symptoms of which the cause must be ascertained.

When dyspareunia is present from the first, it is usually due to vaginal stenosis or vaginismus; when it comes on later, it is usually due to tubo-ovarian disease.

When coitus is followed by hemorrhage in later life, look out for urethral caruncle, cervical polypus, and malignant disease.

When sterility is primary and associated with dysmenorrhœa, it is probably due to stenosis and ante-flexion; when it is associated with a history of xanthorrhœa, it is probably due to salpingitis.

When sterility is not associated with definite physical signs, the husband should be examined before the wife is treated.

When a woman complains of pelvic pains assume that there is a definite physical cause until such has been excluded.

Never call a woman neurotic when you do not know the condition of her pelvic organs.

#### THE LAST WORD.

There is no sign or symptom that may not be fallacious. The most experienced judgment is fallible.—Selected from *Medical Press*.