

allow the patient to return to sensibility; and we notice that the abdomen begins to enlarge again gradually until it has reached its usual prominence. We now feel justified in making a diagnosis of "phantom tumor" or hysterical tympanites. This condition is peculiar to hysterical women, and is most frequently accompanied with a bowed condition of the lumbar region, called "lordosis," supposed to be due to an hysterical spasm of the psoas muscle. In many cases we also have a distinct wavy tremor passing along the abdominal surface when the patient is being examined. This phenomenon was first noticed by Osler of Philadelphia. Instances have been reported where such cases have been operated upon for ovarian tumors. Simpson reports no less than six cases, and Bright reports the case of a woman who entered Guy's Hospital with an unhealed incision in the centre of the abdomen. She had a distended abdomen, and was recognized as an hysterical patient formerly under the care of Dr. Marcet. Sir Spencer Wells, in his book on Abdominal Tumors, reports some interesting cases of this strange disease having come under his observation.

In my next lecture, gentlemen, it is my intention to show you another case of abdominal enlargement of a not less interesting, though very different character.

REPORT ON DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

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During the past twelve months some important contributions have been made to our knowledge of the etiology of summer complaint in infants. One of the most important has been the discovery by Dr. Victor Vaughan, of Ann Arbor, of tyrotoxicon, a poisonous substance produced in milk under favorable circumstances by the action of an organized ferment—apparently the *clostridium butyricum* of the butyric ferment, or if not it, one frequently developed in association with it. This poison was first discovered in some cheese and afterwards in some specimens of milk and ice cream that had produced symptoms of acrid poisoning in those that had partaken of them. Since then it has been