

Moreover, while the patient is under treatment I always give special attention to this character. If there is an increase of weight the treatment is successful, even if the patient continues to suffer from indigestion. The deposition of fat not only indicates that the treatment is correct, but by increasing the intra-abdominal tension favors the further treatment of the disease.

The nervous symptoms are usually very marked in this type of patient, and are referred to the brain, spine, kidneys, pelvis, heart and other organs of the body. They usually cause the patient a great deal of distress. Frequently it is for the relief of these symptoms that the patients seek advice. Gastric symptoms are present, but are insignificant in her opinion compared to the pain in the back, headache, palpitation of the heart, and other symptoms of neurasthenia.

It is on this account, I think, that mistakes are sometimes made in the treatment of these cases. For instance, I have had patients suffering from downward displacement of the abdominal organs who had been operated on for movable kidney, diseased ovaries, laceration of the cervix of the uterus, etc., without receiving any benefit. In one case hysterectomy had been performed. In some of these cases I am satisfied the nervous symptoms were greatly aggravated by the operations.

With regard to the relation of the nervous manifestations to the stomach, a vicious circle may be said to exist, as the downward displacement of the abdominal organs tends to produce indigestion and neurasthenia, and the latter disease augments the digestive disturbance. That such a sequence is present I have frequently obtained clinical evidence, as the application of a perfectly fitting abdominal support relieved not only the gastric disturbance, but almost immediately the neurasthenic symptoms. This is particularly true of cases of gastropptosis of recent origin. The following clinical notes of a case will be of interest in this connection:

Case 1.—Mrs. A., mother of three children. After the birth of her second child, in 1900, she suffered from indigestion, sleeplessness, pain in the back, etc., and was unable to nurse her child. The patient remained in poor health for about two months and then gradually regained her health. She became pregnant again in 1901, and the condition of her health was good until two weeks after her third child-birth, when she began to suffer from indigestion, with vomiting, weakness, lightness in the head and extreme nervousness. The symptoms referred to the abdomen were to me of a rather unusual character. She complained of a bruised feeling around the waist and of a