

spermatorrhea were so excessive as to lead to the suspicion of masturbation, and to this disease was at first attributed; although the continuance of the symptoms, after the vice was effectually prevented, cast a doubt upon this supposition. The testimony of Dr. Charles West gave additional strength to this doubt, and to surmise that the vice was rather a consequence than cause. "I have not in the whole of my practice seen convulsions, epilepsy, or idiocy induced by masturbation in any child of either sex, a statement, I need hardly add, widely different from the denial that epileptics or idiots may, and not seldom do, masturbate. Neither have I seen any instance in which hysteria, epilepsy or insanity in women after puberty, was due to masturbation as its efficient cause." It seems fair to group ataxy with the diseases mentioned by Dr. West, in which case his assertion becomes applicable to it as well. There was no evidence of hereditary predisposition to nervous disorders in K's case. The cause of the hemiplegia remains in as much doubt as that of the ataxy. It is to be regretted that no examination of the spinal chord was permitted in this case. Doubtless degeneration of the posterior columns would have been discovered. The hemiplegia, which was the immediate cause of death, was in my opinion functional, if such a thing be possible, akin to the cases of "apoplectiform cerebral congestion" described by Trousseau. —*Com. Med. Science.*

CASES OF SUPPOSED HERMAPHRODITES.

The following interesting cases we publish as being the most interesting we have ever seen recorded. The first we find in the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, reported by Dr. Henry N. Avery, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y. :

A Genuine Hermaphrodite.—The following is such a wonderful case, and being as near a hermaphrodite as anything can be, notwithstanding the evidence that nothing of the kind can exist, I report it for the novelty of the case, rather than the operation.

August 6th, 1868, Christie Ann C—— called upon me for advice, giving the following answers to my questions. After stating that she was a native of Nova Scotia, and had just arrived in this city to see a sister living here, and seek surgical aid in the States; unmarried; twenty-four years of age; five feet ten inches high; enjoying comparatively good health; occupied during the past two years in teaching school, and that she had a growth upon her privates.

From observation I discovered that she possessed a deep, coarse voice, masculine frame and face; in fact, resembling an ordinary coarse woman.

After a careful examination, to my surprise I found the following to exist: the mamma was undeveloped; the clitoris, resembling a pen's in flaccid state, was two inches long, and half an inch in diameter, with well developed gland and foreskin. No orifice was discovered. A vagina two inches deep, well formed, existing but a close examination per rectum and bladder could not discover any trace of a uterus; the meatus urinarius and vestibule were perfect; the right labium majorum was quite natural and of usual size; the labia minora were

traceable, but in the folds of the left labium there appeared a large pendant tumor, resembling the left testicle of a man, with a well developed scrotum of unusual size, of some four inches in length, resembling in every respect the scrotum. Tracing what appeared to be the cord up, I found it made its exit from the external abdominal ring, and having every indication of a spermatic cord; the epididymis appeared to be natural; in fact, everything resembled a testicle.

She stated that she felt some sexual desire, and that every morning for the past six years she had voided, on rising from bed, a small quantity of blood. To my question as to how long the tumor had existed, she stated that she had noticed nothing until she was ten years of age.

Her object in coming to me was, she said, to see if I would remove the tumor, as it annoyed her. The physician at home, the only one she had ever shown it to, stated that he could do nothing for her.

Being placed in somewhat of an embarrassing position, in discovering so much more than I expected to find, I resolved to call a consultation, to see if my diagnosis of a testicle would be confirmed. Accordingly Drs. J. S. P. Lord, E. H. Parker and my brother Dr. E. W. Avery, all of this city, were called in, when they all agreed that it resembled in every respect a testicle, but the case being so extraordinary that they could not form any diagnosis, but advised an operation.

With the assistance of Dr. Lord and Dr. E. W. Avery, I proceeded to perform the operation, by removing the tumour by the usual process for castration, by making an incision of some five inches in length, so as to expose the cord, which was found with three arteries that were ligated, and several smaller ones, a large nerve, veins, &c.; severing the cord, the retraction was the same that might be expected in performing the operation upon a man; the tumour was then dissected out, the wound partially closed, and the patient placed in bed.

After removal, the tumor was examined by Dr. Lord, Dr. E. W. Avery and myself, with a microscope magnifying 350 times; when cellular structure and convoluted tubes were visible, with rudimentary spermatozoa; in fact, it was declared a testicle.

Mounted specimens of the tubes for the microscope have been prepared, and photographs of the woman will be preserved.

This being the only case, I believe, on record, where a testicle has been discovered in a woman, it will naturally interest many. The fact can now be settled, that such a thing as a hermaphrodite has existed.

The second is the most remarkable case ever observed, and was published in the *Beitrag zur Geburtshund und Gynakologie* and *Am. Jour. of Obstetrics*, from which latter journal we have made the selection:

Probable case of Hermaphroditismus Lateralis.—The question whether hermaphroditismus lateralis actually exists has not yet been decided, as there are no cases on record in which the presence of one ovary and one testicle in the same being could be proved by the microscope. The following case, however, may prove to be one of real hermaphroditismus lateralis:

Towards the end of last year, an individual named