

alterations of the central nervous system, cerebral excitement, etc., indicate the nature and location of these reflexes. In extreme cases occlusive spasm of the cervical sphincter may result in temporary suspension of labor.

If these observations be correct it follows that those women who suffer abnormally during childbirth, suffer abnormally during menstruation. The researches which have been made in this direction have confirmed this conclusion.

The moment that the fetal head passes the cervical orifice dilated to its maximum extent, is the moment of most severe pain during the period of labor. This is also the stage of most active reflexes. But immediately this point in labor has passed, the distant reflexes disappear and the pain assumes a different aspect, more in keeping with the general sensitiveness and the sympathetic action is confined to the uterus itself to sustain and assist the expulsive efforts.

We thus have sufficient evidence to locate the painful spasms of menstruation in the cervical zone of the uterus, and more definitely in pericervical plexus which also penetrates the isthmus and upper part of vagina.

(b) PAIN CAUSED BY DIRECT CONTACT OR BY EXAMINATION.

Pain caused by contact has a double location—the cervix and fundus. The cervix in the normal condition is generally painless to the finger of the examiner. But in certain women the touch or simple pressure causes pain. Taking hold of the cervix with a tenaculum, in most cases, is not painful, but occasionally it causes acute pain. This painful condition is often associated with other hyperæsthetic conditions, as sensitiveness of the normal ovaries, contraction of the vulvæ, etc., which exists without any inflammation of the tissues.

The sensitiveness of the cervical canal varies greatly in different subjects, being greatly increased in certain nervous cases. The passage of the uterine sound when done with care is usually possible in those women whose sensitiveness is not altered. Even when cervicitis is present this simple operation may be painless. But in some cases of a decidedly neurotic temperament most acute pain and intense reflex phenomena result. The pain is sometimes so severe that she throws herself back with a sharp cry, and temporary cerebral derangement such as would be produced by fear or emotion. Occasionally the patient becomes pale, complains of pericardial constriction, palpitation, with a tendency to fainting, the face and hands become covered with perspiration, and frequently vomiting follows.

As a further illustration of the reflexes and of the sensitiveness of