

instances illustrating the relationship of the menstrual function and its perversions to nervous and mental phenomena of a morbid nature. The beginning of menstruation is the signal for mental disturbance with grave frequency, especially when heredity predisposes. The appearance of the first menstruation after labor has been often the signal of an attack of insanity, first called to the attention of the writer by Bailarger, at the Paris Salpêtrière, and since verified by him in several instances. The epoch of severest trial is, however, the climacteric or menopause.

Tilt emphasizes the danger of marriage at the climacteric, and cites the history of an intelligent woman who married at fifty, had sudden uterine pains, followed by flooding, on the wedding night, and who became melancholic and bent on suicide. When menstruation ceased she got well. Savage has called attention to the development of insanity upon betrothal earlier in life. So far the author has referred only to mental disturbances associated with normal uterine function, or at least with no evidence, except in the disturbed nervous sphere, of organic trouble in the sexual apparatus. Dysmenorrhœa, menorrhagia and amenorrhœa, with or without anæmia and chlorosis, have been frequently observed in association with, and as the cause of various insanities and nervous affections, as chorea, epilepsy, hallucinations and amnesic states. Hysteria, that complex and poorly understood neurosis, is so often found associated with these perversions of menstrual function as to have been noted by every observer. Barnes wisely says that hysteria is frequently the forerunner of insanity. Though not directly related to the subject of his paper the author calls attention incidentally to the association of insanity with obstinate constipation, especially to that form characterized by accumulations in the cæcum and transverse colon, the bowels acting perhaps daily, but never emptying. In such cases you get in addition to the effects of mechanical pressure and irritation of the pelvic organs, certain forms of toxæmia due to the absorption of fecal matter. To this kind of empoisonment the author has given the name "copræmia." He relates an example, in his own practice, of insanity associated with this condition, and quotes from a note from Dr. Alexander Newington, an alienist, reporting four cases of acute mania "cured" by clearing out the transverse colon of