treated, the reply often is, that as he is desirous to marry, he is anxious to be informed if he may do so, or if he is competent to perform his marital duties. He will sometimes resort to us under the full conviction that he is physically unable to consummate the nuptials, and he is nervous at the idea of exposing himself to the chance of being found impotent. In such cases as these it is useless to advise marriage, for the patient will sometimes tell you that he has attempted connexion, failed in his endeavors, and intends remaining a bachelor for life.

Lallemand thinks that, in the slighter cases of functional disease, no doubt can exist that marriage may completely cure the patient, before continued excess or evil habit has produced those ill consequences which have been described for; "the regular exercise of organs will alone give all the energy of which they are susceptible, and those of generation are far from forming an exception to this general law. To complete the cure, it is necessary that sexual relations should be established.

In the confirmed cases, where irritation or inflammation is set up in the vesiculæ seminales, or when diurnal or nocturnal emissions take place involuntarily, the man who is injudiciously persuaded to "commit" matrimony will only aggravate the complaint. He will probably find all his previous symptoms exaggerated, and erection, even under excitement, will probably not take place. And even if it does, ejaculation may precede the intromission of the virile organ, or in many cases will not occur at all.

Let his parents or advisers consider the position of this inefficient bridegroom; let them picture to themselves his disappointment, chagrin, and shame. Is it wonderful that, under such circumstances, more than one has committed suicide? But, as the professor of Montpelier has nobly observed. "What has the young girl, who is thus sacrificed to an egotistical calculation, done, that she should be condemned to the existence that awaits her? Who has the right to regard her as a therapeutic agent, and to risk thus lightly her future prospects, her repose, and the happiness of the remainder of her life?

"Until a man has contracted these indissoluble bonds, impotence the most complete can compromise the future of no one.

"It is precisely because marriage is the most sacred bond for individuals, as well as the most important for society, and because an iron law renders it indissoluble, that it is rational as well as moral not to contract it without the certainty that it will be perfect and complete."

In practice, however, we find that the plans of parents and the advice of the surgeon are alike frustrated by other considerations. In many cases the patient is too young to marry; in other instances of spermatorrhœa the dislike to marriage is such that every woman is distasteful to the sufferer, as if nature really intended to spare the victim those mental sufferings we have noted as attendants on these ill-starred matches.

Indeed my experience is that, as a general rule, there is little need to dissuade those who ought not to marry, from doing so. Our task is rather in the other direction—to encourage those nervous, hypochondriacal people to marry and be happy, who, from a bad conscience, a weak frame, the effects of depressed health, or some wild ideas of the possible requirements of the young lady, on a subject of which all well brought-up English maidens are ignorant, fancy that they are unfit to undertake the rational duties of husband and father.

Assimilation of Isomorphus Substances.—M. Roussin has performed a series of experiments on hens and rabbits, in order to ascertain whether similarity in form and composition is accompanied by any peculiar physiological properties. In one series of experiments, he investigated this question with regard to the shell of the hen's egg. This contains 90 per cent. of carbonate of lime; and he endeavored to ascertain whether other isomorphus carbonates could be made to replace the lime-salt in the shell. Accordingly, some hens, some time before laying, were shut up in wooden cages, at a distance from the ground and from any wall, and were fed with potatoes and oatmeal, or with oatmeal moistened with water. With their food, the substances with which the experiments were made, were mingled. The result of these experiments was, that carbonates of baryta, strontia and magnesia, peroxide of manganese, protoxides of iron, zinc, copper, lead, cobalt, or the oxides of these metals, were readily assimilated by the hens and eliminated in the coverings of their eggs. Alumina, sesquioxide of iron, manganese, and the oxides of antimony, were never found in the egg-shell.

Another series of experiments had relation to the soft parts of the egg. The albumen and yolk yield, on calcination, a notable proportion of chloride of sodium. As the alkaline iodides, bromides, and fluorides are isomorphus with this salt, it was endeavored to ascertain whether, after their administration, iodine, bromine, or fluorine, would be found in the egg. Not only was this the case, but the quantity of these elements present in the egg was remarkably large. They were apparently distributed in equal proportions between the albumen and the yolk. Eggs containing bromine, iodine, or fluorine, have no peculiarity of taste; and it is suggested that this observation may be made useful for therapeutic purposes.

The administration of the alkaline iodides, and especially of the bromides, was accompanied by a singular phenomenon, viz., the gradual disappearance, in some instances, of the calcareous covering, in proportion to the increase of the above named substances in the interior of the egg. This occurred in hens left at liberty, and having free access to carbonate of lime; and was not generally observed in strong birds with good appetite.

In a third series of experiments, it was endeavoured to ascertain whether arseniate of lime could be assimilated and substituted for phosphate of lime in the bones—the arseniates being isomorphus with the phosphates. The result was found to be that, when small quantities of arseniate of lime are introduced into the food of a female rabbit, the animal gives birth to young whose bony skeleton contains a notable proportion of arsenic, while their muscular tissue contains scarcely any trace. The arsenical compound is also eliminated by the urine in the form of arseniate of ammonia and magnesia.

M. Roussin concludes from his experiments, that substances isomorphus chemically are assimilated and eliminated in a like manner from the animal economy, and may be regarded as isomorphous in a physiological point of view.—*Gazette Méd. de Paris, and Br. Med. Jour.*