

In females of plethoric habits and great sensibility subject to periodical loss of consciousness, usually there will be found constipation from a strong contractile state of the rectum. The neck of the uterus is generally rigid from the same cause. It appears that the natural stimulus of the blood together with periodicity, is too much for the sensitive organ and the disturbance is felt in the sensory ganglia, and a loss of consciousness for a time is the result. This may be permanent and result in death. I saw a case lately in which the patient remained unconscious for twelve weeks. Previous to her marriage—eight or ten years ago—she was remarkably sensitive in the pelvic organs. She was much troubled with hemorrhoids with great sexual sensitiveness. This was followed by peculiar spasmodic affections about the throat. The same nerves are sent to the throat that supply the pelvis and arise near the sensory ganglia. After the birth of her first child she remained well till about a year since, when the same irregularity of the functions of the pelvic viscera returned which was soon followed with this loss of consciousness. Post M.—Brain showed rather a paucity of blood. The first inch of spinal cord contracted to one third its normal diameter and as hard as a whipcord. No lesion of the brain except a little hardness near the point where the cerebral nerves emanate which supply the pelvic organs and the throat. An examination of the pelvic viscera was not permitted.

This is the 2nd case which I have seen, evidently of pelvic origin. The first case was in a man some 30 years ago. He had been slender in form. He became subject to occasional loss of consciousness which usually continued three or four days. If food could then be forced into his stomach he would revive. Prof. M. advised a course of spirits turpentine for worms. Prof. S. advised a course of blue pills. Dr. A., an eminent physician in Vt., advised frequent bleeding, considering the case apoplectic. After adopting this course he became corpulent, and at his death his weight was over 200 lbs. When he applied to me I enquired into the state of the sexual system, he told me of his excesses and said that for years so great was the sensitiveness that he could not pass near a female without seminal loss. When he died I understood he had been unconscious for 9 days. I was sent for to examine the body—brain normal in appearance but much engorged. The first portion of the spinal cord for an inch, shrunken to half its usual size and flabby. There were no worms. The large bowel was ulcerated at certain points, but as my record is now lost I cannot now tell at what parts. The testicles shrunken to less than half size and flabby. The duodenum was coated with a tenacious mucus.

I should have mentioned that in the cases called dysentery like that above described, there is an extension of inflammation to the muscular