

serious fact, viz., that perhaps one-sixth, if not one-fourth, of all the women in asylums for insane are there because of the special infirmities of their sex and the disasters and penalties of their lives as wives and mothers. Our investigations and results in gynecological surgery have proved so remedial, its initiation has been fraught with results so unexpected, as to be hardly credited unless actually witnessed. We have already examined one hundred and thirty-six women with reference to the presence or absence of disease in any portion of the reproductive system. Out of this number, one hundred and twenty-six had organic lesions or malformations incompatible with normal genitalia. The one hundred and thirty-six women were selected patients out of a total of over seven hundred and fifty female patients under observation since the commencement of this special investigation. The one hundred and twenty-six patients in whom gynecic disease was located represents nearly seventeen per cent. of the total number of the normal female population. This large percentage of pelvic disease is almost incredible, especially to those who are accustomed to regard insanity as practically the only malady affecting the insane. But, if the brain is the prime seat of mental derangement, it should not be forgotten that it is only one of the organs that enter into the construction of the human machinery. Of these one hundred and twenty-six patients there were one hundred and twenty-one whose condition necessitated operative procedure for the restoration or amelioration of physical disorders which either caused or complicated disturbance of the nerve centres.

Interrogation of insane patients on symptomatology as an aid to diagnosis was practically valueless. The sexual delusion often portrayed by female patients afforded no help in arriving at a definite conclusion and usually, when present, were misleading. Ofttimes a patient has referred certain sensations as symptoms induced by the presence of an internal tumor, which, on examination, was found to have had only an imaginary existence. Their distorted mental faculties obscure their judgment and their perverted sensations are erroneously attributed to hypothetical sources.

Observation and question, which are of the greatest importance in determining the origin of ill-health in sane women, are utterly unreliable in establishing the presence or absence of any pathological condition of the pelvic organs in their insane sisters. It is a peculiar feature that the greater number of serious ailments discovered in our mentally-deranged females were only disclosed by actual examination. Without anesthesia it would have been manifestly impos-