

geons. Operation in such a case I consider unwise. A girl's prospect of marriage, maternity, and a happy life, are blasted for ever by such a procedure. The symptoms were not more severe than those met with in delicate, developing, anæmic young women, met with so frequently in practice, women who marry, bear children, and become most useful members of society, if but carefully looked after, properly fed and clothed, and guided by the good wholesome advice of the old-time type of family physician.

Two months ago I opened the abdomen of another case, but refused to remove ovaries or tubes. They were perfectly movable and healthy. The woman had borne six children in six years and the last one within fifteen months. Her symptoms were pain in back, in head, and in left groin; some pain in right groin; worse when she walks; cannot turn in bed; worse when turning to the right than to the left; pain severe when she lies on her back; when she stands up she cannot stand up straight; leucorrhœa. These pains have been present for two or three years. Has been under many doctors and obtained no relief. On opening the abdomen, for purposes of exploration, I thought I detected some feeling of thickening in front of the sacrum, but the uterus and ovaries and tubes were perfectly normal. No doubt the case is one of some organic or functional nerve lesion affecting the lumbar enlargement of the spinal cord, due either to actual disease of the spine or perhaps to an over-indulgence in sexual intercourse.

The nervous system of a woman seems to be more complex than that of a man. We have all met with curious cases. I have seen the menopause brought on suddenly and permanently by marriage. I have seen menstruation cease suddenly during lactation from grief, and amenorrhœa continue for three years and the breasts remain filled with milk during all this time. We have many severe nerve symptoms in women that we cannot as yet explain; we have endeavored to relieve them by removing the ovaries and tubes and have failed. In cases of atrophy of the ovaries the symptoms are—in the opinion of Dr. Annie Clark, so long associated with Lawson Tait—due to other causes, and no relief is afforded by oophorectomy. In cases of infantile

uterus with good sized ovaries, I have tried galvanism, dilatation, and other methods, but with little if any benefit. In one case I have removed the ovaries and the patient has been worse ever since. (*Plate VII.*) I know that many cases operated on by abdominal surgeons come back several times after the operation complaining of their old pains. Obtaining no further relief and becoming uninteresting to the surgeon, they drift into other hands, after their cases have gone to swell the list of so called "cures."

I know of one woman who was delivered of a child after having both ovaries removed. Early pregnancy often gives rise to excessive pelvic tenderness, and is liable to mislead any of us into the opinion that serious pelvic mischief exists.

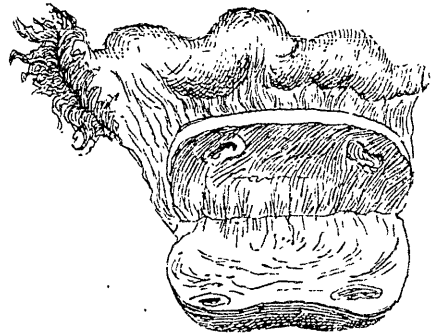


PLATE No. VII.

One of two ovaries removed for dysmenorrhœa in patient with infantile uterus, fundus in *cul de sac* of Douglas. Ovary and tube normal. Patient worse since operation.

Neuralgic conditions often exist in the pelvic organs of young women who are anæmic. If once they have been examined by the finger of the physician per vaginam, and have heard from his lips the words, "congestion of the ovaries," they have ovaries "on the brain," instead of in the pelvis, and a very injurious mental effect is produced. Examination through the rectum, and a silent tongue, when nothing distinct and definite has been discovered, does them no harm. Women indulging in sexual intercourse too freely, I believe, suffer from these neuralgic pains. Women who, to prevent pregnancy, do not allow completion of the sexual act, also suffer in this way. Young married women, with some irritability of the external genitals, preventing completed coition, also suffer from neuralgia of the ovaries. Women suffering from painful erosion of the cervix, sensitive as a boil to the touch, also suffer from ovarian pains. These causes of