

side that of the male bird, the two colors being sharply limited at the middle line. The bird was a hermaphrodite with a well-developed ovary on the side of the female plumage, and a testicle on the opposite side. The phenomena of menstruation offer the most palpable evidence of the onset of puberty. The precise nature of this rhythmic cycle is over-shadowed by a jungle of theories, and, as Millikin well says, we can do no better in the present state of our knowledge than accept menstruation as a habit which has been nailed upon our race by heredity, and which is for us an ultimate biologic fact.

Normal menstruation in temperate climates generally begins in the fifteenth year. In the tropics it appears much earlier, so that in Mexico one may see a grandmother of only twenty years. Within the Arctic Circle Eskimo girls do not generally arrive at puberty until the eighteenth year. City girls usually have the menstrual flow earlier than do hard working country girls, in whom muscular exercise has the same derivative effect on the pelvic blood supply as too intense devotion to study. The time, amount and character of the menstrual flow vary normally within wide limits. The menstrual cycle for different individuals ranges in perfect health from two to six weeks. The average duration in the temperate zone is about four days. Soaking more than three napkins daily is considered abnormal. Anemic girls, as a rule, tend to menorrhagia; chlorotic ones, to scanty menstruation. Clots are present when the amount of blood is great, or the mucus and fatty acids scanty. A periodic white menstruation, from supersecretion of the uterine glands, is not infrequently noticed in the intervals midway of menstruation.

Menstruation is or should be a perfectly physiologic process. In the virgin disorders of menstruation of whatever nature are nearly always dependent upon the defective nutrition of the reproductive organs, and this in turn upon a blood supply insufficient in quality or in quantity. In the great majority of cases, therefore, our efforts to aid nature in effecting the transformation of the girl into a woman, should be in the line of a happy balance of nutrition between the special female organs and the body as a whole.

Hygienic measures are of the first importance. Fresh air and sunshine are always in order. Exercise is especially indicated for the fat and flabby chlorotic girl, and her diet should be restricted in sugars and starches. The highly active, intellectual girl must rest from her studies and try to become a little lazy. Proper precautions should be taken in regard to reasonable care of the person at the time of the monthly periods. Yet the physician should beware of unduly alarming his little patient, and so bringing about a condition of hypo-