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EXPERIENCES IN THE TREATMENT OF PELVIC DISEASES IN THE FEMALE INSANE.*

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GENTLEMEN,—I have selected the subject of the treatment of pelvic disease in the female insane as one that will be of great interest to all who are engaged in the general practice of medicine. I have nothing new to bring before you. I simply wish to lay before you the results of personal experience in this work, as I believe the function of a medical society is that of sifting the evidence given by individual practitioners, passing judgment upon it, rejecting what is useless, and retaining that which appeals to them as satisfactory. My first attempt in this direction was some five years ago. A married lady, aged 35, a former patient, had been committed to the asylum for the insane during my absence in Europe. I received permission from her husband to examine her. At that time she had been in the asylum two years and eight months, and was considered one of the worst cases of acute mania in the Institution—was frequently so unmanageable that she had to be placed under restraint. She was not allowed to wear her artificial teeth for two years on account of her biting everything she came in contact with. She was considered a hopeless case of mania. The medical superintendent considered her case hopeless. With the co-operation of that gentleman and a local physician. I examined the patient under chloroform, and found the right ligament was thickened, the left ovary prolapsed and enlarged, uterus immovable, and the perineum partly ruptured. Upon this finding I recommended operative treatment. She was removed to a private house, and placed under the care of two trained nurses. After dilatation and curetting, I found the right ovary enlarged and cystic, with tubal adhesions; the left ovary adherent in the culdesac. The appendages were removed. The operation was brief, practically bloodless. The stitches were removed on the twelfth day. The mental condition remained unchanged for some days. She continually endeavored to sit up in bed, to tear the bed-clothes, to bite and scratch the nurses. I was obliged to tie her hands on either side to the bed, and place a heavy

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