

and when married, and pregnancy follows, abortion, with hemorrhage, "is the almost invariable result."

#### CAUSES OF THE COMPLAINT.

The following are some of the more prominent causes of menorrhagia, viz.:—leucorrhœa, hemorrhoids, habitual costiveness, tenesmus, frequent and recent abortions, hepatic, abdominal and uterine engorgements.

Scanzoni has well observed, that a prominent cause of menorrhagia in some cases, is a *morbid* condition of blood, *predisposing* to hemorrhage, and consequently more likely to exhibit its effects at the time of menstruation; the acute exanthemata, variola, scarlatina, rubeola, typhus fever and cholera, cause the conditions alluded to, which may be regarded as the *hemorrhagic*, though, perhaps, only of temporary duration. Scorbutic women are peculiarly liable to this affection; stenosis of the mitral valve of the heart, and the various pseudo-plasmata in the uterine walls must not be lost sight of. I do not regard simple ulceration of the os as likely to increase materially, much less produce this complaint; but, on examination with the speculum, in one case, I noticed congestion of the os and surrounding parts, which was greatly relieved by applications of the sub-nitrate of bismuth. The last cause, I shall mention here, is one the importance of which there is reason to believe, amongst married people is but too slightly regarded, viz.:—*excessive coitus*; the ill effects of which, no one who has paid particular attention to this subject, will for one moment doubt. It will be found important to determine to what extent the *flux* depends upon engorgement of the abdominal viscera, from accidental causes or neglect, thus it may be, anticipating the proper menstrual period, constituting a *metrorrhagic* rather than a menorrhagic flow. In this condition, depending upon hyperemia of the organ itself, with impeded circulation, ending, it may be in chronic stasis, a moderate hemorrhage may be followed by relief to the symptoms, and an abatement of the local plethoric condition. I have seen this state of things rather frequently, but the discharge in some became suddenly so profuse, that collapse succeeded, and death appeared imminent from exhaustion; in these lat-

ter, I may mention, the tampon was always employed at once, with, of course, immediate relief.

#### TREATMENT.

I have for several years used various remedies recommended in books, for the relief of menorrhagia, and I cannot now say that any agent, hitherto used as a medicine, rendered that satisfaction desirable. Dr. Meigs, after exhausting his vast resources in physic, resorted, finally, to the *tampon*, in a peculiar case, but thinks *secale cornutum*, and alum with opium, valuable. Dr. Meigs would bleed from the arm in sthenic cases—a doubtful practice—and had confidence in Digitalis, in cases due originally to imperfect involution of the uterus, after abortions or delivery, and also in *matico*, but when danger threatened, Brawn and Chiari's apparatus modified by being made with india rubber, was used as a plug. The solutions of Matico and gallic acid, and tr. ferri muriat. o. j. to aqua o. j. appear to Dr. West as safe to inject into the uterus; I regard their use, in this way, as hazardous, and fatal consequences have followed their application, in the hands of some French physicians. Dr. Macintosh has used plumbi acetat. with tr. opii as a vaginal injection. Dr. McGuire and others, in Scotland, have arrested the discharge with *canabis indica*. In the *Lancet* (London) for 1837, Dr. Rolle advocates the application of leeches to the breasts. Dr. Hewitt administers the ergot of rye, in cases associated with atonic uterus. Walter Jones has succeeded, he says, in almost hopeless cases, with oxide of silver, 1-12 of a grain, three times a day: this latter drug has been frequently employed by some medical men in this Dominion, of large practice, in larger doses, however, than here indicated, with gratifying results. In France, Germany, Italy, and England, the ergot has been employed successfully. The *urtica urens* or lesser nettle, in doses of 15 or 20 drachms of the juice was used, with immediate effects, by M. Gineset. Dr. Burns, in the *Am. Jour. Med. Sciences* 1859, speaks highly of arsenic, 10 to 20 drops of the liq. potass. arsenitis; concerning its *modus operandi* he does not venture an opinion. Dr. Tilt, in the *Lancet*, 1860, gave the *quæ* sulph., where the flow was marked by periodicity, believing the complaint referable to the gang-