

history of these forty-seven cases gave a recovery rate of only 19 per cent. and 36 per cent. in whom was noted some improvement. It should be stated in this connection that some of the recoveries following hysterectomy had chronic ovaritis in addition to the lesion for which hysterectomy was done.

Two explanations may be offered as a solution of the problem why inflammatory disease of the uterus and its adnexa are such potent etiological factors in exciting alienation in females. The first I will term the Reflex Theory. The innervation of all these pelvic organs is supplied from the same plexus, that of the inferior hypogastric, possibly the most important of all the nerve plexuses, controlling as it does the delicate and complex organic mechanism charged with the reproduction of the human species. The continual disturbances of these lower nerve centres incidental to inflammatory deposits must react upon the higher, begetting in some the delusional manifestations which determine mental alienation.

Internal Secretion Theory: In the recent physiological theory of internal secretion, we may find the true solution of the deleterious effects that diseased sexual organs exercise upon the distant seat of reason. Some physiologists claim "there is a normal and constant contribution of specific material by the reproductive glands to the blood or lymph and then to the whole body." (American Text-book Physiology, Ed., '96, p. 901.) Shaefer, in his Physiology, Ed., '98, p. 937, says of internal secretion: "That these (the generative glands) react upon the rest of the organism through the nervous system." Applying this hypothesis to pathological conditions of these same organs, it is not fair to conclude that instead of, as in health, the contribution of this great power in the induction of nerve force, there is precipitated into the general circulation an abnormal noxious element, distributing its virus throughout the patient's economy.

The introduction of these diluents of unknown virulence, invading the inmost recesses of the higher nerve centres, may engender an abnormal functionality in females possessing delicately poised minds. In the removal of these diseased organs, or by appropriate surgical measures directed to diseased sections, we can eliminate these sources of mental toxæmia. These causative factors being removed, the natural forces will gradually re-assert themselves in re-establishing the prior state of sanity. The theories enunciated are possible interpretations of the positive relations that certain pelvic diseases bear to insanity. If, in our experience, one-third of the gynecological cases recovered mentally and another third improved, such results support Prof. Michael Foster's statement in his