

*Leucorrhœa*.—Two important papers on this subject have appeared within the last few months. One is by Dr. Fordyce Barker; the other by Dr. J. B. Hunter of New York. Dr. Barker's paper was read before the last meeting of the American Gynecological Society, and is entitled "*Leucorrhœa: its Constitutional Causes and Therapeutics*." Dr. Barker is well known to be opposed to what he believes to be the excessive modern development of surgical gynecology. He begins by stating that the fact that leucorrhœa is not a distinct disease, but a symptom of many different and even opposite pathological conditions, had led to a neglect of its study and to a forgetfulness of the fact that it not rarely originates from constitutional causes, and that, when long-continued, it becomes itself a cause of important local and pathological changes. Sir Charles Clark, Drs. Ashwell, Henry Bennet, and Tyler Smith, who wrote from twenty-five to forty years ago, considered fully the affection from this latter point of view. Very few modern writers consider it, except incidentally as a symptom of local disease. Barnes, Stoltz and Courty are exceptions. Modern methods of physical examination had been so perfected as to lead to a careful study of certain organic changes in the pelvic organs and perhaps to a corresponding neglect of certain other equally important points, and consequently associated therapeutics. During many years past the author had seen and treated many patients who had, without doubt, received the best surgical treatment from men whom all regarded as most eminent. Some had had the cervix incised, others had had it sewed up, others had the cavity of the uterus scraped out, etc., and no doubt had been improved for a time, but often the symptoms had returned after a time. These patients were often not very interesting, either as patients or cases. Leucorrhœa is the most constant of all their symptoms, and regarded by them as the cause of all their troubles; and the author believed that there was more of truth in their theory than the profession generally was disposed to admit, for in many but slight evidence of organic disease, either through change of tissue or position, could be found to explain the symptoms. In a number of these, and also in others where there was always