

indirect effect on her nervous system or by the influence of the rest, change of scene, diet, etc., with which her operative treatment is accompanied.

The history of gynæcology is one of a succession of periods of concentrated attention on one after another of the pelvic contents. Before the days of the bimanual examination, when every gynæcologist wielded the tubular speculum, the supposed great source of pelvic trouble was the so-called "ulceration of the cervix," and there are well-founded traditions of fabulous fortunes made by those who devoted their lives to the touching of these diseased spots with various applications. Then, with the discovery of the uterus, came the period of displacements and contractures, when nature's mistakes were remedied by pessaries, dilators and scissors. Then the era of the ovaries, and, finally that of the tubes.

Now, at the end of the chapter, what can the *fin de siècle* gynæcologist do but practise upon the whole gamut of his predecessors, giving special attention to one organ or another according to his particular bent or predilection, and so we find the country getting filled with women nursing a grievance against their wombs, their ovaries or their tubes; in many instances possessing diagrams of their pelvic topography furnished by their zealous gynæcological physician; in order, it may be supposed, that they may, in their leisure hours, exercise their already over-stimulated introspective faculty with more scientific accuracy.

Who that has read Clifford Albutt's lectures on visceral neuroses has not smiled at his account of the woman "entangled in the net of the gynæcologist, who finds her uterus, like her nose, perhaps, a little on one side, or again, like that organ, running a little, or as flabby as her biceps, so that the unhappy viscus is impaled upon a stem, or perched upon a prop, or is painted with carbolic acid every week in the year except during the long vacation when the gynæcologist is grouse shooting, or salmon fishing, or leading the fashion in the Upper Engadine?"

Should the gynæcologist's moral sense become blunted, it is not difficult to understand why he may fall into the reprehensible habit of trading on the fears which naturally fill the minds of women when their reproductive apparatus is out of order, and of elevating into an unnecessary importance, conditions which are but trifling.

He trusted his words would not be misunderstood. He did not denounce local and operative measures. In their place they were essential. He only denounced their irrational and injudicious employment. All are subject to this temptation. All desire short cuts