

Original Communications.

DISORDERS OF THE MENOPAUSE.*

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In attempting to gain a clear idea of this subject we are compelled to eliminate the various superstitions and false interpretations which, from time immemorial, have gathered about it. We have therefore the popular view of the change of life and its disorders, which embraces all the miseries which may befall a woman no longer young, beginning to feel the burden of years, and probably broken in health by all the vicissitudes of her life.

“ But care, and sorrow and childbirth pain
Left their traces on heart and brain.”

All the organic diseases of various kinds begin to show their full effects at about the age of 45 to 50 years. If the woman is not sound in all organs, that is the time when she is apt to break down, and of course the laity say it is the change of life; on the other hand, if there are no organic troubles, such symptoms do not develop, and the woman who was healthy before remains healthy, and so she is reputed to have passed safely through the change of life.

The same may be said of the various malignant diseases, which are prone to show themselves at about the time of the change of life. Whether a cancer of the uterus, or vagina or other organ come at the age of 40 or 60, the patient and her friends attribute it to the change of life, and if no such disease appear, she rejoices to have passed safely through that dreaded period.

Of course, looked at in a large way, there is an element of truth in the popular view; that there is a climactery or critical period in the life of every individual of either sex, is a fact, the reason of which I have tried to indicate above. Briefly, the vitality with which we are born into the world is always diminishing; the margin of reserve force is lessening; and at an age, varying from 45 to 55 years, there is very little margin to draw on. This is not confined to women, however, for it

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