

plete absence of the labia minora. On either side of the mons, two almond shaped bodies were to be felt, tender to the touch, easily moved about towards the external abdominal ring, with a round cord attached to their upper ends. These bodies, from their size and shape, resembled more the testicle than ovaries. Through this short vaginal canal I could not detect any uterine body, and on a careful examination per rectum, I satisfied myself that this body was absent. By bimanual examination I could meet my two hands. Firm pressure above the pubis, and the finger in the rectum proved to me that no uterus existed, and retaining one finger in the rectum, and a sound in the bladder, I could bring them together easily, proving the non-existence of the uterus. This patient has been for some five or six years taking medicines for the purpose of bringing on menstruation, without having undergone any examination to determine the cause of the absence of this function. Complete absence of the uterus is not a common malformation.

### THE EXCLUSION OF STRYCHNIA AND ARSENIC FROM ALL PREPARATIONS NOW IN COMMON USE.

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That strychnia is an invaluable remedy is unquestionable; that it is the cause of serious mischief in some cases, even where every precaution has been taken and every fact that could decide for or against its use been most carefully gleaned, is equally unquestionable. Having prescribed it during many years under most guarded rules for female patients, both married and unmarried, with good results, I have lately met with three or four cases the peculiarities of which I think well to bring before the profession, not so much for any practical lesson they teach as the moral they especially point, convinced that our failures, as we must have them, if properly noted, teach us more valuable lessons than our successes.

As the symptoms which indicated the employment of chalybeates with strychnia were much the same in all, I will not take up your space by describing more than one, but will give the result of the treatment in each.

CASE I. Mrs. J. K., æt. 30, mother of three children, consulted me in Jan. 25, 1883. She was of slight figure, complained of headache, vertigo, failure of sight, ringing noise in the ears, unpleasant taste in mouth and throat (especially in the morning), palpitation on the slightest exertion, poor appetite, bowels constipated, in short, functional derangement of every organ, but no disease, merely prostration. She was still nursing her fourth child, then fourteen months old; was perfectly sure she was not again pregnant; never had a return of menses since the conception of her first child, and never felt any of the unpleasant symptoms of pregnancy, but knew when she was so, as her children began to fail. The difference in the ages of the children ranged from twenty-two months to two years. Finding nothing pointing to pregnancy, I at once put her upon the following mixture:—

R.—Tr. calomb.,	
Tr. rhei co.,	aa ʒj.
Acid nit.-mur. dil.,	ʒiv.
Liq. strych., B.P.,	ʒj.
Elix. iron et gent.,	ʒj.
Aqua ad.,	ʒiv.—M.

SIG.—One teaspoonful in water after each meal.

Ordered a podophyllin pill twice a week at bed time; also the immediate weaning of child, and to report the result of treatment in about two weeks.

CASE II. Was nursing her first child, then four months old, child large for its age; had no return of menses. I prescribed the following:—

R.—Elix. iron, calisaya et strych.,	ʒiv.—M.
SIG.—One teaspoonful after each meal.	

Advised weaning the child, and rest as adjuvants; cautioned her as to the mixture and asked to know the result in about two weeks.

CASE III. Was the mother of three children; was nursing the third then four months old; her menses had not returned and did not usually do so until her children were ten months or a year old. There were no signs of pregnancy. I prescribed the same as for Case 2 and asked to hear result.

CASE IV. Was similar to Case 1, only I was more particular in my questioning if possible. The principle of treatment was the same as before, with a request to hear the result.

Now as to the result. In three cases out of the four the result was an abortion. Case 2 complained of most severe bearing-down pains, as in labor, and