

but there is usually a predisposing condition anti-dating the action of the exciting cause.....”

“Whether the transudation is brought about by an irritation of the vaso-dilators or by a paralysis of the vaso-constrictors, or whether it is the stimulation of secretory function” must remain a question. The reflex impulse in many instances has its origin in the terminal sympathetic fibres in the walls of the intestine and stomach.

W. F. H.

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## GYNÆCOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF WILLIAM GARDNER.

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### Cutaneous Pigmentation in Relation to Diseases of the Female Sexual Organs.

MM. DALCHE AND FOUQUET. “Pigmentation Cutanées d’Origine Génitale. *La Gynécologie*, Fév., 1903.

The co-existence of gynæcological troubles and pigmentation of the skin, is not infrequent, the site of the cutaneous lesion usually being the face, as is so often seen in pregnant women. The backs of the hands and the fingers, especially around the joints, may also show discolouration.

They consist, as a rule, simply of hyperchromation of the tissues, the colour varying from a yellowish circle surrounding the eyes of some women at the time of their periods to the dark brown or black of those affected with Addison’s disease, more rarely the patches are bluish, deep red, ecchymosed or yellow.

Pressure produces no pallor of these patches, neither do they desquamate, nor are they irritable. Quanon, Neligon and others have asserted that the colouring matter transudes and may stain white linen if the patches are rubbed with it, but the authors have not observed this phenomenon.

A case is cited of a young woman, twenty-six years of age, who has been afflicted with these patches of discolouration. A retroversion of the uterus and an inflamed right Fallopian tube were found causing dysmenorrhœa and a mucous enteritis. On treating and relieving the displacement and inflammation, the dysmenorrhœa, enteritis and pigmentation were relieved. The pelvic conditions recurred several times, the recurrences being followed by cutaneous pigmentation and by dysmenorrhœa and enteritis, all of which conditions improved each time that the pelvic troubles were relieved.

Women of any age during the period of sexual activity may be thus affected and the duration of the pigmentation varies. In some, it appears just before each menstrual period and persists during the flow,