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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Attempted Simulation of Disease—Black Spots,—a Fasting Girl.* By  
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The protean forms which the nervous diseases of the human female assume, varying as they do from simple kleptomania to frightful catalepsy, with all the intermediate forms of mental and physical obliquity, which are generally included under the generic term Hysteria, are as often the enigma and *pons assinorum* of the psychologist, as they are the bugbear of the general practitioner, so that a statement of a case illustrative of any peculiar phase which this disease may assume, and of its treatment by moral or medical agency, is always a matter of interest to the student of mental and physical disease. The following notes of a very peculiar case of this nature, where the symptoms assumed those of attempted simulation of a mysterious disease, and of the pretension to continued fasting, will, it is hoped, repay perusal, by all who take an interest in such subjects.

The extraordinary phases which the simulation of disease sometimes assumes in the hysterical female are very peculiar. I have seen a woman suffering from menstrual irregularities bring to her physician pieces of lime, from the walls of a room, of which there could be no mistake, and declare that she had passed it from her bladder, and Dr. W. P. Allison, of Edinburgh, in his lectures used to mention cases, where, not only was this substance represented as coming from the same viscus, but where patients brought pebbles and pieces of slate pencil, and represented to their medical advisers that they had passed them with their urine; but the author has searched in vain for a case where the attempt to simulate disease was attempted in the peculiar form in which it was in this one, which forms the subject of this paper.