

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS.

Roddick observes that "the mental condition of many of those suffering from varicocele is peculiar. Its presence has often a most depressing influence and I know of few affections in which the attention of the person is concentrated upon his malady as this." (*Can. Med. Journal*, June, 1884.) This short paragraph very laconically gives us the clinical picture. As the author well observes the constant weight of the scrotum and the perpetual aching pains up along the cord and down the thighs, tend to direct his thoughts to his ailments, and his life is in consequence rendered miserable.

This class *par excellence* provides rich game for the charlatan and the quack, who picture to him in their trashy tracts the evils in store for him if he neglect their infallible remedies. As a matter of fact, however, their sufferings are real and of a dual character. First, from the effects on the local parts and secondly through the effects of the reflexes on the brain. Psychical disturbances are sometimes most accentuated and distressing. Howe has recorded the case of a man with cirsocele, whose mind was rapidly giving way under the morbid influence of the disease; but who in twenty months after operation and care, was entirely restored to mental vigor. He said: "We have evidence of great good having been done in these cases by operation, not only in curing the varicocele, but restoring a mental state which bordered on insanity."

It should not be over-looked, that in all these cases, there is a sympathetic irritation of the sound testicle, and the functions of generation are most decidedly impaired. There is a certain degree of impotence present. Azoo-spermatorrhoea is not uncommon, and the patient will sometimes complain of emissions with very imperfect erections.

If we examine the prostate and the seminal vesicles in these cases, we will find a marked tenderness. The urethra participates in this excessive sensitiveness, especially in the membranous portion, and with few exceptions complaint is made that the force or bladder-expulsion is markedly weakened.

It has long been noted that the symptoms emanating from a varicocele, or enlarged spermatic veins, bear but little