

"Old as I am, for ladies' love unfit,
The power of beauty I remember yet."—DRYDEN.

But this is not all. Beauty and health are twin sisters. Examine these two beings under another aspect. Place your line on the mastoid process of the one, and the plummet, as it should do, will strictly indicate the axis of the spinal column, and strike the malleolus. This, therefore, is the centre of gravity, and its force does not impinge upon a single vital organ. Make the same experiment with the other. The line of gravity will be very different; it leaves the vertebral axis and passes through the organs of the chest, the viscera of the abdomen, and impinges upon the pelvic organs. Add to this a waist contracted and rigidly fixed. Now what must be the result? The upper wall of the thorax being an unyielding cone, and its lower border rendered incapable of expansion, the only compensation must be in the direction of the least resistance. We all know where that is. There are from twenty to forty inspirations every minute during every day of our existence, and in such a faulty attitude of the body the diaphragm is driven down by each inspiration, in the line of the centre of gravity, like the piston-rod of a pump, forcing every organ below it more or less out of place. All violent and unusual exertions of the body also act in the same direction.

Is it any wonder, therefore, that the diseases peculiar to females should have increased to so an alarming extent? And is it strange that, with all these counteracting causes, we should find these ills so difficult of cure, and, when cured, so apt to return? It is fortunate for women, amidst the follies of dress and the foibles of fashionable society, that pathology and treatment have made so much progress in uterine troubles. Were we not in advance of the knowledge of old physic, and did we possess no better means of combating the destructive influences of the times, our households would become female hospitals, and the treatment of such diseases would be an opprobrium to medicine. But to do the best we can, this "patched-up" existence is but a poor substitute for that buoyancy of health and spirits which is the natural birthright of the majority of women.

I have often said to my lady patients privately, and gentlemen, I say it to you publicly, that if the ladies of this country, instead of being travestied by milliners and mantua-makers, and enslaved by every change in the tide of fashion, would, before adopting them submit their costumes to a committee of medical men, or better, of medical women, they would be infinitely more comfortable, would enjoy better health, more