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THE RELATION OF OVARIAN DISEASE TO INSANITY AND ITS TREATMENT.*

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The mental life of woman conforms to the great physiological divisions of her physical existence, covering the the periods from childhood to womanhood, from womanhood to the menopause, and from the menopause through her declining years. The mental characteristics vary markedly with the changing periods. The romping and hoidenish girl of the first takes on all the instincts of vigorous motherhood pertaining to the second period, and these give way at the menopause to the placid contentment and sedateness of advancing age.

Coincident with these physical and mental transitions occur changes in the reproductive system, the proper performance of which exercises a vital importance on the well-being of woman. The development of ovulation, the continuance of the ovarian function, and the cessation of this physiological process are full of perils for the female sex. The germinating organism, weighing in all only 80 grains, is liable to the ingrafting of pathological processes at any period of existence, but more especially when ovulation is active. When such lesions occur, the disturbance of functioning ensues, and this is succeeded by a series of nerve storms ranging in gravity from localized abnormal sensations to profound mental derangement. It is curious, but nevertheless true, that alienist writers

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