

toothache, and she will be sure to have hyper-sensibility of dentine and hyper-secretion of saliva. The teeth, even sound teeth, ache. A condition in the mouth exists which will disappear when the hysteria disappears, and which might be called *odontium hystericus*. It is next to impossible to excavate a cavity, or even to dry one, for such a patient. We may each of us pray that when our patients have this trouble we may be out of town.

But it is not uncommon to meet almost a similar result of menstruation. The catamenia in our modern fashionable society has an especial reflex action upon the nervous system, and associated with the coincident lassitude, pains in the back and loins, has frequently a direct effect upon diseased teeth, as well as upon the sensitiveness of dentine. Everybody knows there are women who can give birth to triplets as easily as if they were rabbits, and who suffer less inconvenience during their menses than they would from epistaxis. But we have to do with the average modern woman in our cities, and so far as opportunity has been afforded me, the observation is very common that hyper-sensitiveness of dentine, increased susceptibility to pain, and hyper-secretion of saliva, which very often has the same acid reaction as in pregnancy, are almost invariably associated with the menstrual period. It is no surprise that even regular catamenia should induce some nervous reflex and sympathetic action along the ganglionic system. We know that a small ulcer on the os uteri will provoke painful micturition, and that in such slight ailments as costiveness of the bowels and foul stomach violent headache may ensue. A good deal of doubt exists among pathologists as to the true functions of the ganglia, and it may be that in menstruation, as in pregnancy, they are the centres of nervous action sympathetically conveyed to the nerves of the teeth, increasing the susceptibility to pain of the pulp and the contents of the tubuli. It may be, too, that the change in the normal character of the saliva has some active influence at this time on exposed dentine. Some day posterity may smile at our ignorance. To-day we go on bravely guessing and groping in the dark for the dawn.

During the catamenia there are many nervous patients who ought not to be operated upon. The effect of even nitrous oxide gas, unless the bladder is previously emptied, is frequently to excite unconscious micturition. It is the custom of many of us to avoid prolonged or painful operations for nervous women at this time. One of the difficulties which meets many a gray-headed dentist is to know if his patients are in the pregnant or the menstrual period. It seems absurd that even an aged dentist, who may be a great-grandfather, has not as much confidence from women in this respect as a medico who may have only passed the years of discretion when he passed his examination. What should a woman do to save her teeth? Added to the constitutional treatment necessary in special