

sist on an examination with all the authority he can command. The reasons should be given if necessary, and if he is refused he should wash his hands promptly of all responsibility in the case.

Malignant disease of the body of the uterus is undoubtedly very rare as compared with similar disease of the cervix, but I have found that its frequency and the possibility of it are much underestimated by many practitioners. The symptoms in a given case have led to the suspicion of malignant disease, the patient has been examined, the cervix has been found smooth and healthy, and the uterine body normal in size and symmetrical. Then, too often, has it been concluded that there is no cause for alarm, and the fatal malady, which could only have been revealed by the dilator and curette, is allowed for a time to go on with its stealthy pace till other more prominent symptoms arise.

And now I come to another class of mistakes, very common, much less serious in their results it may be, but certainly of great importance from the point of view of their effects on the patient's prospects and the practitioner's reputation. I allude to an underestimate on the one hand and overestimate, more frequent perhaps, on the other hand of the influence of disease and derangement of woman's sexual system on her symptoms and health generally. While it is true that there is scarcely an organ or function of the body which may not be disturbed reflexly or sympathetically by diseases or disturbances of function, and in many instances even by the physiological performance of function of woman's sexual system, yet it is most necessary that in every individual case the symptoms should be studied in the light of heredity, early training, and any other influences which may have determined the type of nervous system. And for the rest, in studying a gynæcological case the same methods should be pursued as those by which every case of disease is or should be studied, every organ and function carefully interrogated. In this way only may be avoided such grievous mistakes as removing healthy ovaries for painful menstruation, when that disorder is merely a local expression of a morbidly sensitive nervous system, inherited, or, as it may be, in many cases, acquired.

I feel that I must not conclude my discussion of this subject without an allusion to a class of mistakes which concern and influence the sexual hygiene of woman. Such are the mistakes of omission of the family doctor who fails to urge the mothers or guardians of young girls to inform those under their charge of the important matters pertaining to sexual hygiene. No girl can know by intuition the significance and importance to her health of a normal performance of the function of menstruation. How many instances have we not known of fright from the appearance of the discharge, of the use of cold water to remove it as an