

lar coat. But these are often steps in a general process, the disease beginning in the *mucosa* and extending to the other coats, and this is the most frequent order, or beginning in the serous coat, as an epicystitis or pericystitis, and extending inwards to the mucous coat, which is much rarer. The causes are many. Injuries from blows, falls, coitus, sudden displacement of the uterus, fracture of pelvic bones, pressure of the child's head during labor, over-distension of the organ after labor or under other circumstances, rough catheterization or frequently repeated gentle use of the catheter, introduction of foreign bodies as practised by masturbating and hysterical women, abnormal urine, and extension of inflammation from adjacent organs, as of gonorrhoeal or simple vaginitis or vulvitis, or from the peritoneal surface. A little more extended consideration of some of these causes will be profitable. The pregnant, parturient, and recently-delivered woman, in whom the parts are in a condition of physiological activity and of increased vascularity, or have undergone contusion from pressure, or are paralyzed, and so liable to over-distension, is especially prone to cystitis. Hence the great frequency of the disease under such circumstances, and its unusual difficulty of cure. Of catheterization, it must be said that it is always a source of irritation, however gently performed. How much more-so must it be if done roughly, and if the necessity be frequent. But there is another source of danger in the use of unclean catheters. Winckel has said that the mucous membrane of the bladder is the most sensitive in the body, to sepsis. These facts convey to you self-evident and important cautions.

Abnormal urine is most important in its effects in causing inflammation of the mucous coat of the bladder. Probably, however, it is not so powerful if the mucous coat be healthy. Congestion, as from over-distension, furnishes a sufficient predisposition. Women frequently suffer from over-distension of the bladder in conditions other than puerperal. "The Relation which Faulty Closet Accommodation bears to the Diseases of Women" is the title of a lecture, on a somewhat unsavoury subject, by the eloquent Goodell of Philadelphia. For such reasons and others, women often delay emptying the bladder for a long