

there is "a normal and constant contribution of specific material by the reproductive glands to the blood or lymph, and thence to the whole body," and "this secretion reacts upon the rest of the organism through the nervous system." If this is true, the deduction may be made that the changed condition in the ovary brought about by pathological disease would produce a pathological secretion. If, therefore, the healthy ovarian secretion exercises such a profound effect upon the nervous organism in health, what must be the effect on the nervous system when there is unloaded into the circulation noxious diluents of such unknown potency as the products of deranged ovarian functions.

These theories are offered in explanation of how ovarian disease acts in producing mental alienation.

In conclusion, I desire to emphasize the fact that, from experience gained by the examination and treatment of these cases, it is a serious error for physicians to overlook the functions of ovulation and menstruation in women bordering on the domain of insanity. The determination of the presence or absence of disease of the reproductive organs should be a *sine qua non* in the early treatment of all insane women, and the neglect of this precaution may condemn many of these unfortunates to a life of untold misery until death releases them from mental thralldom.

The table on preceding pages gives details of each case, both mental and physical.