

The pros and cons of the subject were carefully considered by my superintendent, Dr. Bucke, in conjunction with Dr. Meek, of London. As a result, we concluded to investigate the matter fully, and ascertain for ourselves whether much or little utero-ovarian disease existed as a complication in the already chequered lives of these unfortunates. Looking up the histories on which they were transferred for asylum treatment, we selected a number of women whose record seemed to indicate their having had, at some time previous to their committal to this institution, illnesses brought about by the accidents which maternity so often entails.

The first five cases we examined somewhat surprised us, as each case presented one or more lesions of the genital tract which would, in their sane sisters, imperatively call for relief. There were diagnosed in this quintet an ovarian tumor, a subinvolted uterus, a perineum torn to the sphincter, a retroverted enlarged uterus, and a cervix hypertrophied and lacerated. Having thus brought home to us the prevalence of hitherto unsuspected ailments, our professional instincts impelled us to deliberate as to the appropriate method necessary to remedy this co existing physical disease of those already deranged mentally.

Before entering upon this new field facilities requisite to the prosecution of the contemplated surgical treatment had to be provided. We had, and still have, an apology for a hospital in two associated and overcrowded dormitories of twenty beds each, on the fourth storey of the main building; but had not at that time any equipment worthy of the name. We fitted up a room formerly occupied by some of the employees, adjoining these infirmary wards, with a crude, wooden operating table, a couple of gas stoves, some granite basins and surgical instruments. With these means constituting our whole armamentarium, we proceeded to test our theories as to the advantages of supplementing ordinary treatment by surgical aids.

We selected five or six of the aptest of our female attendants, instituted a course of training interspersed with anatomical and physiological lectures, paying special regard to inculcating all the many details involved in the nursing of the different forms of surgical cases. It gives me great satisfaction to state that we now have the co-operation of a band of nurses devoted to this special work and skilled in every particular requisite to the preparatory treatment and after-care of their charges. It is impossible to over-estimate their valuable services in assisting to bring to a successful termination surgical operations done upon these irresponsible