

MEDICAL SENTINEL.

in ten cases. Cystic ovaries varying from slight enlargement to that of a naval orange were found in eight cases, and par-ovarian cyst in one case. Varicocele of broad ligament plexus was found in four cases, and uterine fungoids in one. By far the greatest number in any class being that of the inflammatory class. Next in order appears cystic disease of the ovaries.

Of the mental results I can report eight recoveries and one more all but cured, one very much improved, two slightly improved, one improving, with the satisfaction that, so far as I know, none have been rendered any worse by the treatment.

Of the results physically, all had normal convalescence from the operations but two, one had suppuration in the wound and one died eleven days after the operation, the postmortem showing acute cerebral congestion with a slight focus of suppuration at seat of ligature. One case died of basal meningitis nine weeks after the operation; wound had healed and nurse discharged at the usual period.

The duration of the insanity in those who recovered averaged but ten an one-half months, while in those who were not improved, it averaged twenty-four months. In those whose insanity continued less than one year with the exception of the two deaths already referred to, all but one recovered. This is what we should expect, it proves nothing, but suggests prompt action.

It has been stated that the human organism is a complexity of delicately poised reflexes, but it is more than this since there exists the power of origination and direction of action, and to a limited extent that of inhibiting reflex action.

This something which controls we call the Ego. To the extent that the Ego directs the activities and controls the reflexes, to that extent is the ideal human life exhibited. The ideal life as distinct from that of the mere animal is exhibited only when the activities of the organism are less the result of reflex action than those resulting from the direction and domination of the Ego. So long as the organic structure is intact, so long as the system is free from disease, so long are the reflexes normal; but with a diseased periphery nerve tract or center, we expect abnormal reflex results. When this diseased arc is confined to those parts of the body which are not intimately concerned in psychic phenomena, we have but abnormal physical reflex, as evinced in the exaggerated knee jerk of lateral sclerosis, but if the reflex arc includes the basal ganglia whose function is to exhibit psychic reflex, and if there be organic disease at any point in the continuity of the arc, then we must expect abnormal psychic reflex. The exaggerated knee jerk we call a symptom of physical disease, but we call the abnormal psychic result insanity, while in reality it also is a symptom of physical disease, differing from the former only as the functions of the parts diseased are different.

As the Ego can realize that exaggeration or absence of the knee reflex is abnormal so also it is capable to a limited extent of recognizing abnormal psychic reflex.

In the early stages of mental disease hallucination is conspicuous in which the patient is still conscious of the unreality of the psychic reflex, the second, delusions, in which the Ego has been limited and clouded,