

poor, the inducing factors were overwork, overworry, ill-regulated and poor nutrition; among the well-to-do, educational strain, over-indulgence, the stress of life, and emotional excitement.

Another important factor in explaining the prominent part which the pelvic organs play in the neuroses, is the widespread habit among women of centralising their attention upon these organs, because they are led to regard them as the primary cause of most of their ills. There is a fascination in the mystery of the sexual mechanism, and a morbid introspectiveness is easily engendered by an undue attention to it, too often passing into a condition of hypochondria. This mischievous habit is due, also, partly to the influence of the narrow mechanical school of gynæcologists; partly to the work of quack pamphleteers and vendors of patent medicines—would-be saviours of suffering womankind.

Owing to the marked surgical trend in gynæcological practice during the last twenty years, a narrow and debased specialism has been evolved which has resulted in the establishment of a school whose motto is "*Le bassin c'est la femme*," and whose remedial measures are limited to various procedures—from the passing of a sound to the extirpation of the appendages. Too strong a protest cannot be urged against the centralisation of attention on the local condition without regard to wider physical and psychical relationships.

The accusation of the broad-minded general physician, that the gynæcologist works in ignorance of the neuropathies and organic diatheses in that region of the body where they are of chief importance, is a well-merited one, and the majority of gynæcologists will, if they be honest, acknowledge its force.

In considering a case of pelvic pain we must bear in mind the following points:—

1. The pain may be directly due to pelvic lesions sufficient in themselves to produce this symptom.
2. Pain may exist with minor degrees of pelvic trouble, insufficient in themselves to cause more than a small amount of suffering.
3. Pain may be a pelvic symptom in association with some condition which in itself cannot directly produce this symptom.
4. It may be a prominent symptom in cases in which no local changes of any kind can be made out.

It is, therefore, very evident that other than local factors must be taken into count as explanatory of the symptom which we are considering. Among these, attention should be directed most markedly to the neuropathic condition—neurosis, in the widest meaning of the word.