

the claim or teaching rather, that ovulation occurs once a month and is the cause of menstruation, let me state, and let me state it rather emphatically, that ovulation is a constant function of the ovaries from early childhood until the function of the ovaries cease. The ovaries of young female children are occupied by Graafian vesicles in early life. These vesicles are highly vascularized as early as six years. At the age of ten to twelve they vary in size from that of a pea and larger. The establishment of menstruation has no essential bearing on these vesicles either as the cause or as an effect. The establishment of menstruation does not give rise to any modification or change in the time or in the manner in which these vesicles are discharged. The ovaries of the human female therefore do not require the establishment nor the presence of menstruation for their development or for their rupture. As a further proof of what I state, let me say that when both ovaries are so thoroughly diseased as to proclude the possibility of an ovum being made, menstruation continues. When both ovaries are removed and the tubes left, menstruation continues in a large percentage of cases. When both ovaries and tubes are removed, menstruation continues in about 5 per cent. of cases. When both ovaries, both tubes and part of the uterus are removed, menstruation sometimes continues. In cirrhotic conditions of the ovaries, where there is not a vestige of Graafian tissues left, menstruation continues. In double salpingitis and in double pyosalpinx menstruation not only continues, but is generally more excessive. In chronic inflammation

of the ovaies and in suppuration of the ovaries, menstruation not only continues, but is more abundant. In double ovarian cysts of large size, menstruation continues.

I believe, gentlemen, therefore we may conclude with a strong degree of certainty that ovulation is a constant function of the ovaries; menstruation is a periodic function of the uterus. The one has no relation to the other so far as cause or effect is concerned.

Turning now to the second proposition, namely, that menstruation consists of the shedding of the mucous membrane of the uterus, accompanied by hemorrhage, I may say that it was Dr. John Williams of London, England, who is supposed to have been responsible for this theory. Dr. Williams, as we all very well know, was a distinguished physician, a prolific writer, and he had an extensive following in the medical profession, and when he announced his doctrine that the mucous membrane of the uterus was shed monthly during menstruation, his teaching was readily accepted. It looked very plausible too, but Dr. John Williams made one mistake in bringing his theory before the medical profession. It was after he had performed twelve post-mortem examinations on twelve women who died while menstruating. The mistake he made in his conclusion was that in all his cases in the post-mortem series they each and every one died of what may be termed high temperature diseases, typhoid fever, pleurisy, tetanus, peritonitis, etc. We all know the effect of high temperature diseases on mucous membranes, and when Dr. Williams found at his post-mortem examinations that the mucous membrane