

diagnosis, for he always finds exactly what he searches for, and if he finds no gross there are at least microscopic lesions to justify the operation. He wages his most relentless surgical fury on the ovaries, for in them he believes reside the chief demoniacal spirits that torture the unhappy lunatic. Other spirits dwell in the uterus and he proceeds to the operation of hysterectomy, ventral fixation and trachelorrhaphy, etc. He calls up other minor spirits from the vasty deep of the abdominal cavity in the form of cystoceles, rectoceles, fibroids and polypi, all of which are removed. Following down the genital tract he performs clitoridectomy and perineorrhaphy, and the last citadel he storms is the rectum for the removal of hemorrhoids. He is a strong believer in the theory of reflex nervous irritation, but all his abnormal reflexes centre in the reproductive organs.

I have nothing but words of praise for the splendid achievements of surgical science in the field of laparotomy, and the relief of physical distress and the prolongation of life, which has resulted from the use of the knife. It is against the wholesale surgical mutilation of helpless lunatics that I raise my voice and the exaggerated claims that are made for it as a remedy for insanity. I am free to admit that there may exist pathological conditions in the pelvic organs of lunatics which tend to intensify the mental disorder, and in that case the lunatic has the same right as the sane person to surgical aid for its relief. It may be said that the operation is never performed without the consent of the friends, provided they have any, but we all know how indifferent the friends often are and how eagerly they grasp at any nostrum or operation which has a hope of relieving the poor unfortunates of their malady or relieving them of existence, which to the friends often means the removal of a burden.

Common sense, as well as statistics, prove that sexual disorders in women cannot be such a prolific cause of mental disease as the psycho-surgical gynecologist would make us believe. Statistics prove that the ratio of insanity between men and women is about equal; if there is a difference, there are more male than female lunatics. Why is it that men do not enjoy greater immunity from insanity than women? His genital organs are not subject to the same disorders as women! Happy, thrice happy, should man be because of the simplicity of his genital outfit and its meagre attraction for the operation of surgical science. Had nature decreed him to wear his genitals within the abdominal cavity, he, too, might have been compelled to suffer surgical martyrdom for the sake of restoring his reason.