

My patient declares she has never swallowed her hair, and I would not consider her hysterical. There is no doubt, of course, that she did swallow this hair.

Her temperature never reached 100 after the operation, and was normal after the first three days. Pulse went up to 120 immediately after the operation, but in twenty-four hours was 110, and in three days was 80, and remained about this until she left the hospital. One of the most interesting and remarkable features of the case was the entire absence of symptoms pointing to any disturbance in the stomach. It is now three months since the operation, and she is enjoying the best of health.

In the *Medical News* of February 16th, 1901, Dr. Nathan Jacobson, of Syracuse, reports a case very similar to mine. His patient was a girl, eleven years of age. Unlike my case, she had evidence of gastric disturbance for about a year before the operation, such as vomiting of frothy mucus, and a considerable amount of colicky pains in the stomach. The photograph of the hair mass removed, which he calls a hair-cast, shows it to be very similar in shape to the one I am presenting. It is smaller, however, only weighing 15 ounces. His patient admitted that she had been in the habit of biting off the ends of her hair from the earliest years of her life. At first she thinks she did it simply because she was nervous, but later she rather liked the tickling sensation produced by the hair in its transit to the stomach.

Dr. Jacobson, in reviewing the literature, finds nineteen authentic cases where the patients have swallowed a sufficient quantity of hair to create within the stomach a hair-tumor. Only one of these was a male. Dr. W. G. Brewster, in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, reports a case in which an accumulation of hair became lodged in the small intestines, and produced intestinal obstruction. The patient, a girl of 10, survived the operation of enterotomy only five hours. The youngest patient was 10, the oldest 34. None of these patients were insane, and but few sufficiently nervous to be described as hysterical. In nearly every instance the habit of hair-swallowing was of years' continuance. In one case it had existed for thirteen years, in another fifteen, in a third seventeen, and in a fourth twenty-two. The stomach became gradually accustomed to the presence of the foreign body, and in many instances tolerated it without the slightest rebellion.

The largest mass of hair removed from the stomach, on record, is one weighing 5 lbs. 3 oz. Of the nineteen cases, ten were discovered *post mortem* and nine upon the operating table. It is very surprising that the discovery of the hair-cast was very unexpected. In not a single case had a correct