

A CASE OF MALE PSEUDO HERMAPHRODITISM.

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The occurrence of abnormalites of the genital organs, especially that condition commonly known as hermaphroditism, is of sufficient frequency to warrant our attention being occasionally directed to this subject. The additional, far-reaching social, and legal questions involved, give exceptional interest to this matter, and demand the careful attention of the practitioner. As to the frequency of such malformation it is very difficult to state, as comparatively few cases have been reported, but the conditions under which these cases are occasionally found would lead us to conclude that the abnormality is more frequent than the reports would have us believe.

True hermaphroditism implies the presence of the essential organs of generation of both sexes in the same individual. It does not exist to the extent of enabling a human being to perform the complete functions of both sexes, although an apparently rudimentary ovary and testicle have been found in the same body.

Pseudo-hermaphroditism is of two varieties: male, which I shall describe, and female. The latter is a deformity of the vulvae simulating the male organs; the clitoris is enlarged and the labia united resembling the scrotum; the ovaries may have descended into the labia, thus giving greater resemblance to a scrotum in which there is complete hypospadias with fissure of urethra and scrotum, and undescended testes. "Transverse hermaphroditism" is also described in which the external organs are male and the internal female.

Although the majority of hermaphrodites are males they are usually considered as females, and receive the training and education of girls, mistake only being discovered at puberty. Dr. Cushing says this condition is of sufficient frequency to make the examination of the infant with a view to determine the sex, a very important matter. It is not easy to distinguish between a hypospadiac male, and a female infant; the little cleft penis may easily pass for a large clitoris, the position of the urethra, the appearance of the labia minora and majora are identical, as the testicles in hypospadiacs usually do not descend into the split scrotum until late in life. In those cases also there may be an opening simulating a vagina. It must not be forgotten, however, that the vagina may be absent in females. In short there are cases where the diagnosis can only be made post-mortem.

The following cases are cited:—

Homan's case was one of an apparently female individual, who was such on one side and male on the other. He lived in sexual relations for twenty years as a woman and when menstruation ceased at about forty decided that he was a man, married a woman and was still living at date of writing in such relation.

Professor Main-Salin cites a case of a girl, so-called, of twenty-three. It was not until she complained of amenorrhoea that an examination was insisted on. The result showed that she had strong masculine character-