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Original Communications.

The Significance of Pain in Gynaecological Diagnosis.

Translated and condensed from *La Gynecologie*.

By ERNEST HALL, M.D., Fellow of Br. Gyn. Ass'n., Victoria, B.C.

In the department of gynaecology, pain is a symptom of no little importance. It is frequently exaggerated by the sensitiveness, irritability and the sedentary life which many women follow. On the other hand, it is not rare to see some of the most painful conditions borne with apparent ease by those in the lower walks of life who are compelled to do manual labor, or in those in better circumstances, who, by peculiar temperament, or by determined will are able to control their feelings and to suppress any manifestations of suffering. Of these two classes the former contributes the greater number of our patients. It may be that there is a variety of pain of an emotional nature, or it may be that the peripheral impressions react too acutely upon the centres of sensation in the lumbo-sacral plexus. In order that we may understand the remote effects, the radiated pains and reflex spasms that lesions of the uterus and adnexa give rise to, we must remember that the genital organs have in this plexus a direct centre of sensation, and through the abdominal sympathetic are connected with all the neighboring