

the relation of two to one. This indicates that the single men and the married women may rejoice in their probability of becoming insane being double that of their married brothers and of their single sisters. It scarcely requires an expert to read between the lines and determine the import of such statistics. *Re* insanity in the male, what of masturbation and its results? The public reports give only a measure of these results. The reader, if he is desirous of following this subject, is referred to Acton's chapter on "Insanity from Masturbation." As to chronic disease of the testicles affecting the psychic prejudicially, any surgeon of experience can testify. Again, let us consider the effect that a constricted and adherent prepuce frequently exerts upon the male infant. This is also too well known to require further comment. The question of septic disease of the male organs and the ultimate effect upon the minute ramifications of the system, is yet in its infancy. When the treatment of these parts has advanced to the state of excellence which we claim in regard to the opposite sex, we may then speak with some degree of certainty in this matter. The fact is, the causes of mental abnormality in the male have not been investigated with that degree of thoroughness that is due the importance of the subject; but since the full causation is not determined we are not warranted in stating that the disease of the male organs is not a cause of insanity; but, on the contrary, the inferences from practical experience seem to lend force to the supposition that possibly disease of the male organs may be a factor of no little moment in the production of mental disturbance. As a general statement, abnormalities of all bodily organs are capable of deharmonizing the mental functions in direct proportion to their intimate connection with the great nervous centre. This connection may be through other means than nerve fibre, although the sympathetic here plays an important part, but the processes of circulation, nutrition, and secretion are not to be forgotten.

In conclusion, are not the sexual organs, over and above their nerve connection, in common to the other abdominal organs, supplied with an additional and unique connection with the psychic? And is it not reasonable to suppose that irritation of parts in such close relationship would be more apt to result in alteration of cerebral function than irritation of organs with less intimate connection with the great nervous centres. Also, are they not more exposed to disease than other abdominal organs? I refer to the traumas of maternity, the invasion of septic bacteria and various abuses. And, lastly, why in a series of some thirty operations performed on the insane by Dr. Hobbs for disease of parts other than the sexual organs no mental recoveries followed, while in the surgical treatment of diseased sexual organs the mental recoveries amounted to the modest sum of  $38\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the cases operated upon.