

presented to my professional notice by her spiritual counsellor, the Curé of the parish, from whom she presented a letter of introduction, explaining the object of her visit, viz., to ascertain whether physical causes existed, that would justify or authorise a separation from her husband by divorce. Her partner, by whom she was accompanied, expressed great sorrow, as did she also, that her condition should have called upon her the especial interference of her pastor; and they both declared that they were contented with their connubial state, and happy in their relations to each other. The reasons for seeking a separation were not theirs, but were entirely prompted by her ghostly adviser, who deemed her, according to the canons of the church, physically disqualified for the objects of marriage—the procreation of children.

For obvious reasons I withhold the names of the parties; but in other respects, report the case exactly as it stands in my case book.

A—G—, æt. 32, wife of J—  
A—R—, called on me on the 24th of July, 1847, with a letter from the Rev. Messire ——. She is a woman of bilious nervous temperament, intelligent and interesting looking, in short, a rather handsome Brunette, extremely well formed, full chested, mammae well developed, hips wide, height about five feet one inch. She will have been eight years married on the 28th of the present month. *She has never menstruated.* Up to the age of thirteen years she was perfectly healthy; at which time she began to suffer pain in her back, loins, hips, and abdomen, with occasional headache, nausea, and sickness of the stomach; with vomiting; and lastly, furunculæ broke out upon the back, hips, and legs, which continued to heal and break out again, in successive crops, for

nearly two years. They then subsided and the mammae became full, hard, and plump. From this time until her marriage, she was *periodically subject to diarrhœa*,\* but never since. Her health, strength and appetite are excellent, and she has had no illness since her marriage but toothache; and the only inconvenience she suffers is pain *occasionally* in the abdominal region, during the night, with the globus hystericus. *She enjoys sexual intercourse.* On examination, per vaginam, found all the parts, external as well as internal, natural, healthy, and well formed, excepting that the vaginal canal was perhaps a little shorter than usual and the os tincæ rather smaller. From all these facts, I arrived at the conclusion, which I communicated to the Curé, that *there were no physical impediments to child-bearing*, since women have been known to bear children who have never menstruated. Professor Frank relates a case in which the menses “never appeared, in married or single life, nor had the patient, at any time, any lochial discharge, though she had produced three healthy children; and Holdefueund mentions a case of tardy menstruation, which occurred for the first time at seventy years of age.

Our knowledge of pathology suggests in this case a morbid condition of the ovaries at least, if not of the uterus also, coeval with the ill health of the patient, between the thirteenth and fiftieth years. The probability therefore is, *that she will have no offspring*, although such a consummation is not impossible, for reasons before stated. Numberless instances are on record, and are, in fact, of daily observation, of married females

\* We here perceive the unerring laws of nature beautifully at work, to relieve the redundancy which sympathetic nervous action might otherwise have occasioned, to the great inconvenience or danger of the patient.