

Are not the ravages of disease in the parts recognized by well known lesions, and may there not yet be much to be learned in this particular field? Again, who are the men who largely recruit the asylum ranks? Are they not the young men who in the period of functional activity have excelled in abuse of their sexual system? We shut our eyes to this too often. The excessive waste of highly vitalized fluids, with its accompanying exhaustion, the inflammatory conditions, acute and chronic, which are the product of the gonococcus, to say nothing of the grosser pathological results—abscesses, strictures, etc. Must nature bear this outrage without revenge? Our asylum reports state self-abuse as a cause of insanity in a certain proportion of cases. When an elongated and constricted peuce, adhesions and retention secretions are a recognized cause of nervous disturbances in male children, it is but reasonable to suppose that undue irritation and exhaustion may cause the most grave nervous disturbances in adults, but when we have added to this condition one of specific infection, with all its train of results, it is within the limits of the probable that one cause of insanity in the male may be analogous to that in the female, and if the cause, then it follows that the treatment should be as direct and radical.

Lest any careless reader or superficial observer, whose thoughts follow but beaten tracks, and whose memory hovers over "mutilating operations upon the insane," "wholesale mutilation of helpless lunatics," and other absurd phrases, might conclude that it is within the meaning of this paper that the cause of insanity among women is found alone in diseased pelvic organs, or that surgical measures are advocated as a panacea for mental abnormality we wish to emphasize that no such erroneous conception exists either upon the part of the writer or in the minds of those who have appeared before the public as workers in this department. But one thing we do believe and shall advocate so long as there are additional worlds of conservatism to conquer: That the principles of surgery and humanity unite in demanding that the insane receive at least the measures of consideration and treatment that their diseases call for; that these hapless sufferers from pelvic diseases have extended to them the benefits of modern treatment; and that our insane mothers sisters and wives receive treatment equally skilful to that given in daily practice by hundreds of our educated physicians. If this be done a small per cent. of the asylum population may be sent to their homes, households united, family ties restored, and given "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." This is no idle dream, no strain of imagination, but a fact in our city. What has been done here can be repeated in any city in Canada. It is an opportune moment, in view of the evidence submitted for the profession to unite in this new crusade and extend to these unfortunate invalids the measures of mercy that an enlightened sentiment desires and the spirit of justice demands.

In order not to prolong this paper I will give a brief history of but a few of the cases.

Case 1.—Mrs. —, a former patient, aged 35, of excellent family history, no hereditary taint, had been committed to the Provincial Asylum