

histological pictures which the uterine mucosa presents and to enunciate the fact of a periodic rotation therein. They are the first to reduce this order out of the former chaos, to deduce the law of a fixed cyclic periodicity throughout the life-time of the menstruating mucosa. This important deduction constitutes the main thesis of the present paper, and therein is embodied the authors' justification to originality. As they correctly observe, for many years, indeed since the discovery by Nylander of the epithelial cilia, our knowledge of the uterine mucosa has remained more or less stationary. Throughout this time our conception of the mucosa has been that of a fixed tissue which at stated intervals, in accordance with the menstrual habit of the individual, submitted itself to a hæmorrhagic discharge. It is true that certain histological changes habitually were found in this mucosa, such as the changes in the number and character of the glands themselves or alterations more or less pronounced in the proportion of glandular and interstitial tissues. But these changes were regarded commonly as pathological—the so-called different varieties of glandular or interstitial endometritis.

In the light of this recent work we now know that these changes are but physiological, that they represent solely the different phases of the menstrual cycle. We are told that the uterine mucosa, throughout menstrual life, is never a fixed definite tissue but is always undergoing rhythmic change; that each month, in its premenstrual phase, the mucosa provides for the reception of a fertilised ovum; and if fertilisation occur, the early decidua-like changes of the premenstrual phase become simply more accentuated toward the formation of a definite decidua, while if impregnation be missed, this escape is indicated by a sudden hæmorrhagic destruction of the upbuilt tissue. In such way, then, the present article describes the life-history of the menstruating mucosa, and the included illustrations, old and familiar as are their faces, amply corroborate this description.

In what follows I have simply epitomized the authors' text and have endeavoured, in so far as possible, to permit them to tell their own story in their own words.

In the opening of their paper the authors give a brief résumé of the previous literature on the subject of the mucous membrane of the uterus and especially of the microscopic alterations of the mucous membrane in menstruation. They point out that in almost all cases investigators regarded the non-menstruating and the menstruating mucous membrane apart from each other and did not assume any intimate connection between the one and the other. The mucous membrane of the uterus was invariably described as though, so far as changes of tissue were concerned, only the changes of menstruation