

the sane, for the relief of physical distress, yet to extol it as a great curative method in the treatment of insanity is nothing short of absurdity. There can be little doubt that the extravagant claims made by its enthusiastic advocates have done much to discredit the practice among sober-minded conservative thinkers.

It is the general opinion among the laity, and that opinion is prevalent among the medical profession as well, that pelvic disorders are the chief cause of insanity among women. In fact, diseases and disorders of the generative organs in women occupy far too prominent a place in the mind of both the laity and profession as causative agents in the production of both mental and physical disease. From pubescence to the climacteric and even to old age nearly all the ills that women are subject to are attributed in some way or other to diseases or disorders of the generative tract. Prior to the dawn of aseptic surgery, the uterus was mercilessly treated to all sorts of local applications, including dilatation, curettement, cauterization, douches, and the application of pessaries of all shapes and sizes. Since the introduction of asepsis the abdominal cavity has become the happy hunting ground of the surgeon, and the very impunity with which it may be eviscerated or mutilated is a strong incentive to the specialist in search of surgical glorification to ply his art. The danger of all specialism is to warp the judgment and contract the mental horizon within the range of its own narrow field of operation. The ophthalmologist versed in the science of optics sees in every departure from health errors in refraction and by various tenotomies professes to cure epilepsy, locomotor ataxia and other neuroses.

The specialist in Psychology sees in every criminal a lunatic and would treat them all as irresponsible beings instead of punishing them with the rigors of the law. He would abolish capital punishment as a crime and treat the murderer as a subject for commiseration and humane treatment in an asylum. In the vaunting ambitions of kings and emperors and others high in authority, he sees only evidence of mental degeneration and would have them deposed and confined for treatment. All the vagaries of mankind, moral and social, he treats as evidence of mental alienation, and in even his nearest and dearest friend he notices some mental obliquity for which he is irresponsible.

The specialist in surgical gynaecology believes that insanity in women is largely if not altogether due to pelvic disorders, and he proceeds to restore to reason the unhappy victim by unsheathing his scalpel and removing the offending organ. He never fails in his