

CASE No. 1146.

I feel myself constrained to fly to you at last, and reveal a secret which I can no longer keep to myself. You will readily understand what it is, and I am filled with shame to acknowledge it, but have been doing it in ignorance until the last year or two. I am one of those unhappy beings who early fell a victim to that accursed habit masturbation, or self-pollution, when at school, I will describe all the particulars. I am now twenty-five years of age; it was when I was about fourteen I commenced this self-abuse, and sometimes I had sexual intercourse. About four years ago I had the disease called gonorrhœa, or clap, my doctor called it. He cured me, as I thought; but I still kept practising that pernicious habit. About two years ago, or nearly, I felt a tremendous prickly itching underneath the testicles, so I went to my doctor again, and he told me it was gleet. I have been taking lots of stuff and injections, but they don't do me any good. There is scarcely any pain, but an almost continual discharge, which causes a stain like gum to be left on my linen. It is much aggravated by taking wine or spirits, or violent exercise; it affects my eyes very considerably. I only wish I had read your book before, for I had made up my mind previously to reading it that I should never be cured. My habits are pretty regular, and my occupation out-door. I feel a loss of memory, and a continued feeling of languidness, being tired with the least exertion, very nervous and timid; the eyes are very weak, and sometimes very hot, and feel sore in their sockets. I have pains also to the back of my head; my sleep don't afford me much refreshment, for I very often feel more tired and languid when I get up than when I go to bed. I am troubled with dreams, and sometimes fancy myself in the embrace of some beautiful woman; and on some of these occasions I have found my night-clothes wet with the fluid which had escaped. The last one occurred only two nights ago; and for the last two years I have had escape of seminal fluid