

French say "indisposé." It is a matter of common observation that social condition and circumstances influence much the extent or amount of complaint. Women of the lower classes, obliged to work with their hands, as a class suffer relatively very little as compared with women delicately nurtured in luxury and refinement. As compared with ordinary slight discomfort and the intense form of dysmenorrhœa, attended with agitation, restlessness and loud outcry of pain, we have every degree of severity of disturbance. In all cases the relative susceptibility to influences causing pain, and the capacity for endurance of pain must be taken into account. It is much a question of the personal equation. The condition of the nervous system induced by a life of luxury and refinement and the defective training so often associated, is commonly one of greatly increased sensibility. If such influences have operated through several generations their effect is much intensified. But it is not only by their influence in rendering the woman more sensitive, that these conditions do thus operate. The modern methods of education with their system of emulation and strife for place and position, for rewards of excellence and attainments, of diplomas and the like, operating as they do at an age when a large measure of the nutritive force of the body is required for the development of the sexual organs, operate in withdrawing to other channels such energy and force. The result is a stunting or imperfect development of the generative organs. It is a law of animal life that an imperfectly developed organ performs its function with difficulty and imperfectly. Then there is local pain and general disturbance. It follows that in estimating the significance of menstrual pain many things must be taken into account. How then are we to estimate an amount of pain which we must designate painful menstruation. Roughly perhaps we may conclude that an amount of pain which interferes with the woman of the lower classes attending to her daily avocations, and which in the woman of the upper classes prevents the observance of social engagements and the taking part in the usual round of pleasures, may justly be considered as dysmenorrhœa. At every step in dealing with painful menstruation the great fact must ever be borne in mind that it is a symptom, and that it is a symptom of many and varied conditions, just as are the other menstrual disorders, amenorrhœa and menorrhagia. The physician who can accurately diagnose and skilfully treat the disorders of menstruation is an accomplished practitioner of the diseases of women. Some classification of dysmenorrhœa is therefore absolutely necessary to a proper study of the subject. But here, as in all other classifications of disease or symptoms, types must be considered. No