

reproduction in the female, exercise more or less influence upon her mental stability, as is evidenced by the neurotic changes which appear at puberty, pregnancy and the climacteric. Therefore a woman's sexual apparatus should be in a normal condition in order to insure her bodily and mental health. Careful inquiry into absence or presence of symptoms of pelvic disease should be made in every case of insanity among women, and, if such are complained of, she should be examined and treated if necessary. His operations were undertaken with the view of securing physical health and future comfort of the patients, and not with the object of curing the mental condition, yet in many cases they were followed by mental improvement and even recovery. Curettage and divulsion alone were done upon nine cases, followed by physical gain in all and mental recovery in six, but none in the other three. The cervix was either amputated or repaired in twenty-three patients, with nine recoveries and seven women improved. Perineorrhaphy, as the main operation, was performed on three patients, but no recoveries followed. Eight patients had complete hysterectomy performed on them for fibroid, epithelioma, etc. Two recovered mentally, one improved, two remained in *statu quo* and three died. Alexander's operation and ventro-fixation were employed nine times. There were two mental recoveries, three improved very much and the rest remained as before. In two cases, ventro-fixation, plus removal of diseased adnexa, was followed by one mental recovery. The removal of diseased adnexa was the only operation performed upon six patients, with the result that three recovered their reason, two were greatly improved and one very old patient died from pneumonia two weeks after the removal of a large cyst. Out of the total of sixty-one patients operated on, there were twenty-three who recovered their mental equilibrium, fourteen were greatly benefited, in nineteen there was no improvement, and five patients died.

Closure of the Abdominal Wound.

NOBLE, C. P. "A new method of suturing the abdominal wall in celiotomy."—*Am. Jour. of Obstetrics*, April, 1897.

The steps of the operation practised by Dr. Noble are : 1st. Closure of the peritoneum by a running suture of catgut ; 2nd. Uniting the edges of the rectus muscles by a second running suture of catgut ; 3rd. Suturing the aponeurosis in such a manner that the aponeurosis of one side is brought over, superimposed upon and sutured to that of the opposite side with silk-worm gut ; 4th. Closing the subcutaneous layer of fat with a running catgut suture ; 5th. Closing the skin with an intra-cuticular suture of catgut.