

oxsyzms. One month ago she was in my office in splendid mental and physical condition, presenting no traces of her old malady except numerous scars upon her tongue, vestiges of her direful experience in the past.—*St. Louis Courier of Medicine.*

VAGINITIS.

Extracts from Dr. J. MATTHEWS DUNCAN's clinical lecture in *Medical Times and Gazette*.

Vaginitis is a disease greatly neglected in medical practice and literature. This arises from two circumstances; it is often chronic and slight; and it often forms a part of a more extensive disease, of which other parts are much more urgent, and attract the whole attention of the observer to themselves. The frequency of this disease gives it great importance.

Diphtheritic vaginitis is a rare disease. Erysipelatous vaginitis is a rare disease; and there is a peculiar form of it which is rarer—a diffuse inflammation of the external cellular coat, causing swelling which almost occludes the whole length of the passage; and when this ends in suppuration it sometimes so dissects out the tube of the vagina as to deserve the name para-vaginitis dissecans. Lately I have seen a case of vaginitis with similar inflammation of the cervix uteri, where the disease consists of rounded sloughing phagedenic ulcerations, of one or two lines broad, for whose origin no satisfactory syphilitic account could be given; the ulcers were on the laquear vaginæ and on the cervix. Then an ulcerous vaginitis ending in adhesions is described; and I have seen a pustular vaginitis.

Besides these differing kinds there are varieties of vaginitis, as where the disease attacks only parts of the passage, as the laquear, in which case it is very frequently associated with inflammation of the cervix uteri. It also frequently attacks the lower part alone of the vagina, and in that case it is often associated with inflammation of the pudendum. Besides, the inflammation may be of small parts, so that when the vagina is looked at it has a mappled, or a marbled, or a mottled appearance. I have seen also a vagina spotted like a Dalmatian dog, as if the chronic inflammation were only around the openings of numerous little mucous follicles, regularly arranged. Again, as in a case which I showed you in "Martha" last Tuesday, the inflammation may so affect the ridges of the rugæ of the vagina that they alone appeared, the sulci being pale.

Vaginitis may be a local or a constitutional disease. The characteristic acute vaginitis, gonorrhea venerealis; or the same disease occurring after marriage, or the same disease occurring after the introduction or during the wearing of a pessary, are examples of local (purely local) disease. If the disease is severe it draws the constitution into sympathy with it, and you have a constitutional affection secondary to the local. But a large number—

indeed I think the majority of cases—are constitutional in their origin; they exhibit an order the reverse of that which I have mentioned as characteristic of local diseases; it is the constitutional that brings on the local affection secondary to the constitutional.

In this hospital it seems natural to speak at length on the constitutional origin and treatment of local disease, of which Abernethy made so much. There is an inflammatory diathesis which accounts for the occurrence of local diseases, and this is occasionally well exemplified in lying-in women. Such, while well and tenderly cared for and scrupulously nursed, and after the time of septicemia and pyemia are far past, may have a violent attack of pleuritis or pleuropneumonia, for which no explanation can be discovered, and which begins and ends as a simple inflammatory disease, but not a mere local disease; it springs from a constitutional origin, and this origin we call the inflammatory diathesis for want of a more definitely intelligent name. . . .

What are the constitutional conditions which give rise to vaginitis? Alcoholism is the most important; the next is old age; the next is lupus, or rather the constitution accompanying lupus; and the next diabetes, and in this case the vaginitis is generally accompanied by vulvitis.

The importance of this distinction of vaginitis into local and constitutional is seen in treatment. A local vaginitis is to be managed almost entirely by local treatment. A constitutional vaginitis will be very imperfectly and unsuccessfully treated if you pay attention only to the local treatment; whereas if you pay attention to the constitutional treatment and even omit local treatment, you will succeed. . . .

This inflammatory affection of the whole genito-urinary organs by alcoholism, and of which vaginitis is a part, is not a disease which stands alone. There is a well-described disease, for instance, which affects the same systems of organs, and them alone, in women, called genito-urinary tuberculosis, a good example of which in the post-mortem room is one of the most interesting sights I know. . . .

This form of vaginitis is often easily cured, but it is very liable to relapse; for I have classed it as of constitutional origin; and who will remove lupus from the constitution? . . .

Epoch or age here produces not different diseases of the vagina, but it produces vaginitis of different kinds. You have no vaginitis in childhood. I, at least, have never seen any except of the lower part adjoining the hymen. Then during mature life you have the characteristic acute vaginitis, the venereal gonorrhea, or a like disease, which may owe its origin to a perfectly pure sexual intercourse. An acute vaginitis is not to be so designated, unless it has the combination of characters necessary to entitle it to that name. You must have intense inflammation rapidly coming on after the cause has acted, coming to a climax in eight or nine days, and then rapidly fading and going away altogether or becoming chronic; and you must have during