

ova, as there is no possible chance of their being impregnated, the os uteri being sealed against the invasion of the sperm cells), on this assumption and the fact that spayed cows yield a more abundant secretion of milk may be based the theory of the cure of "inoperable" cases of cancer by the removal of the ovaries. That the menopause has no effect in diminishing the growth of mammary cancer is clinically well proved by the fact that such growths are common after its advent, and, if they have existed prior to it, they do not show any signs of a less rapid growth, but rather grow more rapidly.

What is the change in ovarian function, which occurs at the menopause? Ova are no longer required for reproduction. Is there maturation of ova prior to puberty, and does this also occur after the menopause, and are these ova absorbed, and do they exert an inhibitory action on the cells of the mammary glands, preventing their fatty degeneration? Previous to puberty the mammary glands are small and undeveloped; at puberty they enlarge somewhat. At each menstrual period in some women distinct enlargement and tenderness are noticed. If each menstruation is a disappointed pregnancy, as I see no reason to doubt, the increased size of the mammæ is doubtless a sign of the preparation of the woman for lactation; pregnancy not occurring and the ovarian function not being arrested, ovulation continues and the fatty degeneration of the cells of the mammary glands is checked. At the menopause, if maturation of ova still continues, these must be absorbed, and hence again we may have the inhibitory action on the mammary glands preventing fatty degeneration, and therefore the need of removing these glands if this change is to occur.

On the ground that the maturation of ova is not the sole function of the ovaries, but that they also elaborate an internal secretion, which has a widespread influence on the system, exception may be taken to the foregoing. But that this internal secretion has no effect on this particular phase of the question, is without doubt; for we should expect this secretion to continue during pregnancy and lactation, and the fatty degenerative changes would not be due to it, but rather to the suppression of the discharge of matured ova, and it is this cessation of maturation of ova which is desired in these cases of cancer.

Is there any relation between mammary cancer and excessive coition? May not the latter, by repeated states of congestion, produce fibrosis of the ovaries with a resulting discontinuance of their function? We see similar results in other organs. According to the foregoing theory, fatty degeneration would then be permitted in the mammæ from the inactivity of the