

The subject of this paper brings us more within the realm of Physiological Psychology, or the science which investigates the correlations that exist between functional activity of the various organs of the body and the phenomena of mind. Some hold that mind is a distinct entity entirely independent of matter. Others contend that the brain secretes thought as the liver secretes bile and that mind can only express itself through the operation of living brain matter. As psychologists we are pretty generally agreed that the perfect ego is the sum of the combined functional activity of every organ in the body at its best estate, and that any departure therefrom, or loss of function in any organ either by disease or surgical extirpation, must impair the ego in direct ratio to the status of that organ in the human economy.

That the brain is the organ of mind and through its nerve distribution presides over and regulates the whole process of nutrition secretion, excretion and reproduction is a well attested physiological fact. Its anatomico-physiological mechanism is duplex, so that in case of injury or destruction of function on one side, the other side takes on compensatory action. In the case of dual organs, such as the lungs, kidneys and ovaries, if one is diseased or removed the other takes on compensatory action and the physiological process though impaired, goes on. In the case of the ductless glands, which were so long considered as functionless, recent investigation has proven that each one has a distinctive function of its own which is essential to the vital economy. In short, experience proves that, while nature has richly provided for compensation in duplex organs where one is diseased, the removal of both destroys a function which is essential to the integrity of the whole organism. Nature indulges in no superfluities either of structure or function, but, while she possesses ample power of repair in case of disease or partial loss of structure, yet when total destruction of organic function takes place no other organ can assume vicarious substitution to repair the loss, and the whole ego must suffer.

These preliminary remarks on the general law which govern the relation of the mental to the physical prepares the way for the discussion of the subject of my paper, viz.: "The after effects of surgical procedure upon the generative organs of women for the relief of insanity."

The relation of gynæcology to psychiatry has been pretty thoroughly discussed in late years, and the general concensus of opinion gathered from alienists and neurologists alike is that, while it has a place among the insane just as it has among