

out a fully satisfactory answer. During the last three years it has been demanding more and more attention in all countries where scientific medicine obtains, and is passing from the hands of the physiologist into those of the surgeon and pathologist. It is now a subject for clinical study and post mortem findings.

Before proceeding further, it will be necessary to define the terms "mental" and "pelvic disease." First, pelvic disease. I include under this term all pathological conditions of the pelvic organs of the female, that, in the opinion of our ablest gynaecologists, would be capable of producing discomfort, pains, functional, or systematic disturbance in those who possess normal mentality. With reference to such disputed points as movable, retroverted uterus, rare as it is, I am personally disposed to consider it abnormal, as there must necessarily be tension or pressure on surrounding parts. Very slight lacerations, without cicatricial tissue, I do not consider of much significance.

What constitutes mental disease or insanity is very difficult to determine. I shall give a definition evolved from the study of the cases under my care. In order to have a basis, I will postulate that there is something within us primarily greater than physical product, not conditioned, except in expression, by the physical mechanism—the Ego. To the extent that the Ego directs the activities and controls the reflexes, to that extent is the ideal human life exhibited. The ideal life, as distinct from that of the mere animal, is exhibited only when the activities of the organism are less the result of reflex action than those resulting from the direction and domination of the Ego. So long as the organic structure is intact, so long as the system is free from disease, so long are the reflexes normal, but with a diseased periphery, nerve tract, or center, we expect abnormal reflex results. When this diseased arc is confined to those parts of the body which are not intimately concerned in psychic phenomena, we have but abnormal physical reflex, as shown in the exaggerated knee jerk of lateral sclerosis, but if the reflex arc includes the basal ganglia whose function is to exhibit psychic reflex, and if there be organic disease at any point in the continuity of this arc, then we must expect abnormal psychic reflex. The exaggerated knee jerk we call a symptom of physical disease, but we call the abnormal psychic result insanity, while in reality it also is a symptom of physical disease, differing from the former only as the functions of the parts diseased are different.

As the Ego can realize that exaggeration, or absence of the knee reflex is abnormal, so also it is capable to a limited extent of recognizing abnormal psychic reflex.