

10. And were there no other reason, the fact that every man owes to woman for her love in his infancy, in his childhood, and in his manhood, a debt that no devotion can ever repay; and when as physicians we reflect that her special diseases are manifold more in number, worse in severity, and more dangerous to physical and mental integrity than any affliction we ourselves are called to suffer, we should offer no less a sacrifice to the other sex than a life's work.

These arguments were commented upon approvingly by the gentlemen present, and it was furthermore decided.

11. That as the diseases of women are in great measure capable of being discovered and demonstrated, the same degree of disgrace should attach to physicians prescribing at random for married women complaining of pelvic symptoms, as to those who would do this in the case of diseases of the throat or eye, or who unjustifiably lengthen a patient's treatment for the sake of a larger fee.

12. That as in attending upon childbed all impurity of thought, and even the mental appreciation of a difference in sex are lost by the physician, and an imputation of them would be resented as an insult by the profession, so the care of uterine disease tends to inspire greater respect in a patient for her attendant, and in him for her. It is untrue to say that high-minded and delicate women instinctively desire to be attended by one of their own sex for these diseases, any more than in confinement, just as it is unquestionably the fact that because of the mental and physical disturbance temporarily induced even by healthy menstruation, women, the best nurses, are unfitted to practice medicine and surgery, in any of their departments, with as much benefit to their patients or as successfully as men; and,

13. That as it is the duty of every searcher for truth to impart what he may find to his fellow-men, so it is incumbent upon the members of this Society to endeavor in every honorable way to exert an educative and persuasive influence upon the profession at large.

The constitution and by-laws were then adopted. They state the purpose of the Society to be the advancement of gynecic science and art, and their due recognition, both in Boston and throughout the country; and recognize as the code of ethics that of the American Medical Association.

Dr. H. R. Storer presented to the Society a masked patient concerning whom he desired advice, the case being one of

OBSTINATE EROTOMANIA.

The history was as follows:—Age of the patient, 50; American, unmarried, and from the country. Climacteric passed several years since, previous to which time, and subsequently, the general health has been good. At twenty-five, coitus was once indulged in with the overseer of a mill, at which many foreigners were employed; and upon the remembrance of this the patient has lived. The mental and physical condition are both peculiar. There are action and reason—and the question is to decide whether the brain here chiefly affects the genitals, the genitals the brain, or each the other. There has for many years existed a troublesome pruritis, and a constant twitching of the clitoral region, analogous, apparently, to that of the infra-

orbital muscle occasionally noticed. These have been attended by an inordinate longing for the other sex, and a frequent indulgence in masturbation. In addition to these appetites, under the circumstances not at all unusual, there exists a remarkable delusion. The patient thinks that the knowledge of her fault, committed so many years ago, has been communicated backwards and forwards among the Irish throughout the country, so that every man or woman of that nation whom she meets seems by word or deed to be taunting her. If she hears an Irishman say to his comrade, "Its very hot to-day," she imagines that he applies the expression to her; if he says that "Its very cold," he is upbraiding her for an indifference that she endeavours in vain to attain. So that every person of the kind whom she meets starts, through her self-consciousness and remorse, the old disordered train of ideas, and these, reflexly and always, kindle the vulval congestion, which almost inevitably culminates in orgasm.

Before the patient consulted Dr. S., her clitoris had been excised at Chicopee, no benefit being obtained. After the employment of every local sedative he could think of, borax, tobacco, morphia in lotion and by hypodermic injection, hydrocyanic acid, acetate of lead, the vapor of chloroform, etc., etc., and a corresponding appeal to antiprophrodisiacs, exhibited by the mouth, as bromide of potassium up to an hundred grain doses, etc., etc., without avail, Dr. Storer quieted the pruritis by superficial vesication with a saturated aqueous solution of carbolic acid. The muscular twitching still remained. There was no clitoris left to excise, even if Dr. S. had believed in the efficacy of Mr. Baker Brown's treatment, which, from its unsuccessful employment at his hands in other cases, he did not. He had resorted to an operation which might be a novel one, by passing, with a curved needle, ligatures beneath the crura clitoridis, and down against the pubic arch, at a distance from each other of nearly half an inch, and allowing these to slough out, he had divided, so far as seemed possible, all nervous communication with the affected part. Relief, however, had been but partial. The actual cautery and cantharidal collodion had each given temporary quiet, but the symptoms returned. The vagina, urethra, and bladder had been carefully examined, but nothing abnormal could be found. The uterus seemed perfectly healthy, as small and supple as in a virgin who had passed the climacteric, and not at all displaced. To make assurance doubly sure, and to get, if possible, a reflex effect, the acid nitrate of mercury was applied without and within the uterine cervix. No clitoral response of any kind was elicited.

The rectum was searched for ascarides; none were found. Some small hemorrhoids were excised, and the sphincter ani ruptured by forcible dilatation, but the twitching continued as badly as ever. The liver was appealed to in vain, and in vain had blisters been put behind the ears. In desperation, Dr. S. had jokingly said to the patient he believed he should have to sew up her vulva closely; and, now, here was the woman daily begging him to do so, or end her misery by putting an end to her existence. He had little doubt, from the history of the case, that the mental disturbance was in part, at any rate, of pelvic causation, how-