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## Original Communications.

### ANOREXIA NERVOSA.

By P. R. INCHES, M. D.

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A few years ago, Dr. Gull of London described a form of nervous disease manifested by indigestion of a serious nature or degree, and it attracted much attention and discussion. The "Lancet" in an article of its own summed up the symptoms of the condition thus: "The patients are generally young girls from fourteen and upwards though we have known a striking case at a much earlier age. The disease may however occur in males. The great feature of the cases is complete anorexia leading to extreme emaciation, with slow pulse, subnormal temperature and very few respirations, strange to say there is associated with these depressed functions a remarkable restlessness, a disposition to be moving or walking about, though the patient is an object of remark in the street. There is an entire absence of signs and symptoms of tuberculous or other organic disease." "The disease does not often prove fatal."

Not very long ago one of my patients exhibited in a striking degree similar symptoms an account of which are

now given from notes made at the time and before, I noticed Dr. Gull's report.

The patient was a girl of 21 years of age. When she came under my care for treatment she was a very tall girl had been very stout weighing 160 lbs. well nourished and handsome, never ill nor requiring medical attention till about four years before, when attending boarding school in another town her menstruation which had been regular from the age of 13 but rather deficient in quantity, ceased altogether and with the exception of two changes two years before date of this illness had continued absent. There had been no known cause for this, and during these years I had without seeing her prescribed binocide of manganese and other emmenagogues without effect, and the irregularity had apparently affected her general health but little, till about 2½ years ago that is November 1892, when she came directly under my care. She had then become pale, extremely emaciated with dyspnoea on exertion and habitual constipation. Had no appetite her friends said she did not eat at all. Had no cough, no evidence of lung disorder, nor of the heart, nor kidneys nor liver nor uterine disease unless the amenorrhoea is so considered. She was in fair spirits, but would cry readily. She continued to do certain house work against the wish of her friends,