

tween the Mens and the Corpus it may be that few of us have even yet dreamed. Certain it is that as investigations into the physical realm are continued, startling facts are being constantly brought to light concerning the very intimate relation between the psychic and the physical. Is it not more than probable that we are just here treading the borderlands of a new world. Surely what we already know, though dimly, of the correspondence between the mental and the physical is sufficient to convince us that there are yet great discoveries to be made along that line. And let us not overlook the fact that to the active physician belongs the duty of jealous investigation in that direction. In fact he must be to the forefront in the scientific investigation of these opening problems or he will become the butt of ridicule for those whom he, in his complacent self-sufficiency, is inclined to designate as quacks and religious cranks, and for their increasing number of sympathizers among thoughtful people.

Prof. Foster tells us that "changes in what we call the body bring about changes in what we call the mind." Demonstration is unnecessary to show that the sexual system, while in direct sympathetic connection with other organs, has also a unique connection with the physical, nor to trace the relationship between a given psychological state and that of local pelvic congestion, and the channel through which this is made possible is the same channel through which a local pelvic irritation may produce abnormal cerebral activity with disordered cortical functions giving rise to and indicated by abnormal mentality. These influences from peripheral irritations of the sexual organs may at times be inhibited by a strong mentality, but they may, if severe and persistent, eventually overcome the strongest subjective effort. Given a certain environment of a strongly sexual character in a robust person, certain alterations of form and function follow in response to such stimuli in spite of efforts of the will to the contrary. To obviate the result the environment, or stimuli, which may be purely physical, must be removed. Now if such stimuli, not necessarily objective, are sufficient to produce organic change in defiance to the will, so may a local pelvic irritation or stimulus, acting upon the higher nervous centres cause abnormal physical action, also in defiance to will power, to cease only when the abnormal environment or peripheral irritation is removed. This is illustrated in the experience of my first case, who after her recovery gave me a somewhat detailed history of parts of her insane life, stating that she experienced and recognized within herself a force totally distinct from herself which compelled her to speak and act directly against her better judgment. This force, formerly called Satanic, is but the unconquerable abnormal physical reflex from a sensitive and diseased periphery, and the patient vacillates between reason and insanity as the force is subservient to and dominated by the will or becomes the ruling power in the organism.

With this conception of insanity comes a new responsibility, especially to those who had formerly considered its development the limits of their medical jurisdiction. We must now consider insanity but the indication of a serious physical lesion, demanding the utmost care and skill on the part of the attendant to discover, to determine and treat such