

CASE 111.—Admitted on June 4th, 1897. Was married, no children, but had a miscarriage. No heredity. On May 10th, 1898, she was operated on for a diseased cervix uteri and a displaced uterus by the Alexander method. She made a good physical recovery, but her mental condition got worse. She was kept in the refractory ward most of the time. It was noticed that the insanity was exaggerated at time of ovulation, and on examination the right ovary felt a little enlarged and resilient. She was operated upon on December 18th, 1900. The right ovary was found entirely diseased and the left ovary, although not enlarged, was bound down to the broad ligament with a coil of intestine adherent to it. Both ovaries were removed, and since that time she has been perfectly well mentally and is gaining physically.

CASE 227.—Was admitted August 16th, 1900, at the age of 22. Had been married three years, but had no children or miscarriages. Had an eccentric maternal grandmother. She herself had had chorea six years previous to this. Present attack began June 15th, 1900. She was acutely maniacal on admission and remained so until operation, October 23rd, 1900. The ovaries, on examination, felt slightly larger than the normal, the left a little more so than the right. Celiotomy was done and excision of left ovary was made, reducing it to one-third of its former size. The left ovary was relieved by puncture of several cysts. She made a good physical recovery. The mental condition lessened in acuteness immediately, and she gradually improved and was sent home on probation on December 8th, 1900, quite well. She still remains well and has increased considerably in weight.

As to why diseases affecting the organs of ovulation interrupt normal mental functions in so many of the female sex, it is difficult to conjecture. Plausible theories may be advanced as possible explanations of this phenomenon. Two theories are advanced as probable solutions, viz.:

1. The reflex theory: This theory hinges upon the fact that irritation produced in one organ by disease affects its numerous nerve filaments, thence from these through the nerve plexuses connecting the various organs of the body it reflects its irritability upon one or more of the other organs. The brain being but an integral part of the body is just as liable to disturbance of its physiological mental functions, as shown by various insane phases, as is the vomiting which is produced by a pregnant uterus. Insanity is very liable to occur in those whose brains are unstable in character, or are afflicted by an hereditary tendency to mental breakdown when suffering from pelvic disease.

2. The internal secretion theory: This is founded upon a theory advanced by some German physiologists who claim that