

cure by medical means was out of the question. The coolness and effrontery with which he conversed about the subject, and the reasons which he had to urge in his behalf, led me to this belief and also to the further conviction that there was a streak of insanity in his composition which would some day become wider and probably entirely overwhelm him. I neither saw nor heard anything of him until one day about a year afterward he entered my consulting-room in company with a rather pretty young woman, whom he introduced as his wife. Requesting her, after I had congratulated him, to step into the adjoining room, he informed me that after leaving me a year before he had thought over seriously what I had said to him, and had finally arrived at the conclusion that I was right, and that he would endeavor to change his course. He went so far as to pay several visits to the young lady his father wished him to marry, but compliance in that direction he found was entirely out of the question. Then he had for a while frequented houses of prostitution, but had never been able to bring himself to the point of attempting sexual intercourse. He had his own ideas of morality and decency and in his way was very conscientious, and these circumstances influenced him somewhat, but the main reason was that he had a deeply-rooted disgust for the sexual act and all its accompaniments, especially, so he said, with women who made a trade of its performance.

Then he had thought of forming permanent relations

with some one woman in order first to ascertain if he were capable of doing his part in the marriage relation. He took, as he said, one who he thought would answer the purpose, but after a week's residence with her he severed the association, having been unable to rouse sufficient desire to induce him to make any effort at connection.

But about a month before his return to me he had visited a circus that was passing through a village at which he was staying with a friend. Here he had become suddenly enamored with a young woman, one of the performers, who rode a bare-backed horse with great agility and daring. He made propositions to her which she indignantly rejected, and finally offered marriage. He was at once accepted, the knot was tied the same day, and ever since then he has been the happiest of men. Upon the whole this was a better termination than might have been reasonably expected.

c. Desire Extinguished by Perversion of the Sexual Appetite. It sometimes happens that the perversion of sexual appetite goes much further than it did in the case of this young man, and that infinitely more unnatural and degrading acts than masturbation take the place of the normal physiological function. Such cases have received a considerable amount of attention from writers on medical jurisprudence, more in fact than from those on impotence, though they are worthy of much attention in this relation.

To begin with the most common example of the condition in question and which is more a vice in most

instances than it is a disease, we find that those addicted to pederasty are as a rule devoid of desire towards the opposite sex. As just intimated, the practice in question is generally a vice resorted to by debauchees who have exhausted the resources of the normal stimulus to the sexual act and who in this new procedure find for a while the pleasure which they can no longer derive from intercourse with women. But it is not to be questioned that there are others in whom it assumes more the phase of a disease and who often lament the tendencies to which they are subject, and which they are powerless to resist. In the one class of cases there is impotence from want of desire, the condition having been induced by the acts of the individual, while in the other there is a like condition resulting from inherent perversion of the sexual instinct.

Writing on this subject, Tardieu* says: "I do not pretend to explain that which is incomprehensible, and thus to penetrate into the causes of pederasty. We can nevertheless ask if there is not something else in this vice than a moral perversion, than one of the forms of *psychopathia sexualis* of which Kaan has traced the history. Unbridled debauchery, exhausted sensuality, can alone account for pederastic habits as they exist in married men, and fathers of families, and reconcile with the desire for women the existence of these impulses to unnatural acts. We can form some idea on

* "Sur les attentats aux mœurs." 2^{me} édition. Paris, 1858, p. 125.

the subject from a perusal of the writings of pederasts containing the expression of their depraved passions.

"Casper has had in his possession a journal in which a man, member of an old family, had recorded, day by day, and for several years, his adventures, his passions, and his feelings. In this diary he had, with unexampled cynicism, avowed his shameful habits, which had extended through more than thirty years, and which had succeeded to an ardent love for the other sex. He had been initiated into these new pleasures by a procuress, and the description which he gives of his feelings is startling in its intensity. The pen refuses to write of the orgies depicted in this journal, or to repeat the names which he gave to the objects of his love. . . .

"I have had frequent occasion to read the correspondence of known pederasts and have found them applying to each other, under the forms of the most passionate language, idealistic names which legitimately belonged to the diction of the truest and most ardent love.

"But it is difficult not to admit the existence in some cases of a real pathological alteration of the moral faculties. When we witness the profound degradation, the revolting salacity of the individuals, who seek for and admit to their disgusting favors men who are gifted both with education and fortune, we might well be tempted to think that their sensations and reason are altered, but we can entertain no doubt on the subject, when we call to mind facts such as those I have had related to

me by a magistrate, who has displayed both ability and energy in the pursuit of pederasts. One of these men, who had fallen from a high position, to one of the lowest depravity, gathered about him the dirty children of the streets, knelt before them and kissed their feet with passionate submission before asking them to yield themselves to his infamous propositions. Another experienced singularly voluptuous sensations by having a vile wretch administer violent kicks on his gluteal region. What other idea can we entertain of such horrors, than that those guilty of them are actuated by the most pitiable and shameful insanity?"

Cases of sexual perversion leading to indifference toward the other sex and impotence have been described by Servaes,* Kraft-Ebing,† Liman,‡ Le Grand du Saule,§ Charcot and Magnan,|| and many others. Several instances have also been under my own observation. While it is not necessary to refer more fully to the disgusting details of all these cases, the description of some of them is indispensable to the thorough consideration of the subject under discussion.

Among the cases of undoubted sexual perversion

* "Zur Kenntniss von der conträren Sexual-empfindung." *Archiv für Psychiatrie und Nervenkrankheiten*, 1876, p. 484.

† "Ueber gewisse Anomalien des Geschlechtstriebes," u. s. w. *Archiv für Psychiatrie*, 1877, p. 291.

‡ "Caspars Lehrbuch, 6^{te} Auflage, p. 509.

§ "Les signes physiques des folies raisonnantes" (Discussion). *Annales médico-psychologiques*, Mai 1875, p. 431 *et seq.*

|| "Inversion du sens genital." *Archives de Neurologie*, No. 7, 1882, and 12, 1882.

which have been reported, is an interesting one, in which, however, the condition, though undoubtedly existing, was not recognized, and the details of which have been given by Beck.* The instance is that of Sprague, who was tried in Brooklyn, in 1849, for highway robbery, said to have been committed under the following circumstances: He was a printer by trade, and one morning left his home to go to his place of business, when he was seen to rush up to a young lady, throw her down, and then, snatching one of her shoes, to run away. Although she had on a watch and chain and other articles of value, he did not attempt to take them, nor to offer any other violence than that mentioned. At his trial the defence of insanity was set up.

"The principal witness was the defendant's father, a clergyman of the highest respectability, whose testimony was corroborated in every particular by several other witnesses, indeed by all the court thought it worth while to bring forward. *Charles Sprague's paternal great-grandfather, grandmother, great-grand-uncle, and three great aunts, being four out of a family of six, and a cousin, are, or have been, insane. He had himself, in youth, received several severe blows and falls upon the head, and within a year from the last fall he began to suffer headache, and his friends observed an unnatural prominence of the eyes.* Simultaneously with this, Sprague began to exhibit a propensity to abstract and conceal the shoes of the female members of his family. In the majority of

* "Medical Jurisprudence," vol. i, 1860, p. 732.

instances one shoe only was missed, and it was usually found about the house, having been thoroughly soaked with water, twisted up like a rope, and then hid away between a feather and straw bed, or in the depths of a trunk, or hung up in a closet with garments concealing it.

"Suspicion at once rested upon the servants, but the real agent being detected and questioned, remained silent, and on subsequent explanations, generally denied the possibility of his agency until within the last six years. During this period, when remonstrated with on his singular habit, he would admit that he must have taken the shoes, though he had no recollection of it, and did not know for what he wanted them. The intermissions in this practice have at no time exceeded three or four months at one time.

"After the practice became established, Sprague's mother and sisters and the female servants habitually locked up their shoes; yet, occasionally one was missed and discovered twisted and crumpled after being wet. It was rumored at one time in the family that Sprague had attempted to remove the shoe from the foot of a domestic, and his sister alarmed her father at night on finding him abstracting her shoes from a locked drawer. In the early part of the year of the trial two females, one residing in Brooklyn, had a shoe or shoes taken from their feet while walking in the street in the evening, but the offender has never been certainly known."

A case similar to this, so far as the object of the

thefts is concerned, has lately been under my observation, and will presently be more fully cited.

Some years since, in the city of Leipzig, a number of young girls were assaulted in the streets by a man wrapped in a cloak, who stuck a lancet into their arms just above the elbow and then quickly disappeared. Finally he was discovered and arrested. It then came out that he had been actuated by a morbid sexual impulse, that the incision of the lancet had been accompanied by a seminal emission, and that his whole existence had become absorbed in the alternate excitement and depression which preceded and succeeded the act.*

In the discussion to which reference has already been made, M. Legrand du Saulle gives the particulars of a case which he had a short time previously examined. The patient was a young man of twenty years of age, a graduate of a college, of an æsthetic turn of mind, but of a cold and gloomy disposition, with contemplative, misanthropic and spiteful tendencies, who condemned himself to solitude, who fled from the world and exhibited the most decided repulsion, not only towards women in general, but towards all that could exhibit the least evidence of a feminine origin, or of the intervention or form of women. He felt himself, however, on the contrary, irresistibly drawn towards men and pictures,

* "A Treatise on Mental Unsoundness, Embracing a General View of Psychological Law." By Francis Wharton, LL.D. Philadelphia, 1873. p. 600, § 623.

statues, and images, representing man in a naked state. He possessed anatomical plates depicting the genital organs of man, the adjuncts to virility, and he was constantly looking out for a chance to see the penis of every man who stopped to urinate in his vicinity. He was one day arrested in a public urinal in the Place de la Bourse, where he and an old man were standing looking at each others' genital organs. The young man was the son of a hysterical mother; he had phimosis and slight atrophy of the testicles. For the former a surgical operation was performed, but for fear that some untoward event might take place, a statement of his condition before the operation was drawn up, dated and signed by M. Legrand du Saulle and M. Vidal, who had also examined the patient, in which it was set forth that the case was one of the most abnormal genesic perversion.

The following case, the details of which are given in the patient's own words, is reported by MM. Charcot and Magnan.*

"My sensual feelings were manifested," he said, "from the time I was six years old, by an intense desire to see boys of my own age, or men, naked. It was not difficult for me to satisfy this inclination, for my parents lived near a barrack, and the soldiers put no restraint on the exhibition of their virile organs. One day I saw (I was then about eight years old) a soldier masturbat-

* *Op. cit.*, No. 7, p. 54.

ing. I imitated him, and experienced besides the pleasure of the imagination as to what the soldier was doing, the physical pleasure of the friction. I continued to give myself pleasure by exciting my imagination by the remembrance of naked men. My parents left N— and went to live at B—. There I saw that the soldiers bathed in a little stream and in a completely naked state. I resolved, in order to obtain the satisfaction I wanted, to seat myself on the bank of the river, and to pretend to sketch the landscape, while, without appearing to do so, I could look at them. At about the age of fifteen, puberty was attained, and I derived much more satisfaction from my acts of masturbation. Moreover, I provoked erection and its results as much by imagination as by friction. More than once I had erection, the sexual orgasm, and seminal ejaculation solely through seeing the genital organs of a man. At night my imagination was excited and the like results ensued. At the age of twenty I stopped masturbating, but I was never able, notwithstanding all my efforts, to control the excitation of my imagination. Strong, handsome, and young men always provoked in me a strong emotion; a fine statue of a naked man also caused a like effect. The Apollo Belvidere excited me greatly. When I met a man whose youth and beauty excited my passion, I was tempted to please him, and if I had given a free rein to my feelings I would have shown him all possible kindnesses; I would have invited him to my house, and written to him on perfumed paper. I would

have sent him flowers and made him presents, and I would have deprived myself of many things in order that I might have rendered myself agreeable to him. I never did these things, but I was quite sure I was capable of doing them. I thought by refraining I might conquer the desires I experienced. I knew how to overcome the inclinations of which I speak, but I was never able to subdue the love I felt. Fortunately for me my love was changeable. Work and my studies are a great assistance to me against my venereal thoughts, but often sensuality prevails, and I am obliged to stop in the midst of the study of an intricate question by the sudden appearance of a naked man in my imagination. I have always fought as hard as I could against this sensuality, and I have often refrained from acts towards which I felt myself impelled, but I have never been able to extinguish the sensuality itself. The supreme satisfaction of this sensuality has never extended beyond the sight of a naked man, and especially the penis of a man, and I have never felt any inclination to enter a man or to be the passive object of a man. To see the genital organs of a strong and handsome man has always caused in me the highest voluptuous feelings.

“As to women, however beautiful they may be, they never excite in me the least desire. I have tried to love one, believing thus to turn my ideas into their natural channel, but notwithstanding her beauty and her assistance I have remained entirely unmoved, and erec-

tion, so easy with me at the sight of a man, has never even had a beginning. No woman has ever provoked in me the slightest sexual feeling.

“I admire the feminine toilet; I love to see a woman well dressed, for I am then reminded that if I should be a woman I would dress in that way. At the age of seventeen I dressed myself like a woman at a carnival, and I experienced an indescribable pleasure trailing my skirts on the floor, in arranging my false hair, and in putting on my low-necked dress. Until I had reached my twenty-second year I took the greatest pleasure in dressing a doll, and it affords me much pleasure even now.

“Ladies are astonished to find that I am as good a judge of the good or bad taste of their toilets, and at hearing me talk of things as if I were myself a woman.

“The love which I may feel for any particular woman passes quickly, for as another handsomer in my eyes makes her appearance the thought of the first disappears.

“For the last few months nocturnal emissions are not so frequent with me as they used to be. At present three weeks have elapsed since I have had one, but I continue to have my usual dreams and to desire always to see (nothing more) naked men.”

MM. Charcot and Magnan give a good many other particulars in regard to this interesting case, some of which are of great importance from a neurological point of view, but which have no very direct bearing

on the point at issue. He was advised to make the intellectual effort of substituting a woman for a man in the crises to which he was subject. He made many efforts in this direction, but his mind constantly turned to a naked man. Finally, however, after several months' contest he succeeded to some extent, and even went so far as to establish sexual relations with a woman, from which he derived voluptuous sensations. The moral effect was excellent, and for several days he had some repose from his former sensations. Being obliged, however, to quit Paris for a time, and then being forced to fight his former inclinations with his reason alone, he began to feel his unnatural proclivities again obtaining the ascendancy.

In this case, in addition to the moral treatment, recourse was had to hydrotherapy (cold affusions and douching) and to the administration of the bromide of potassium, which, it is said, diminished the intensity and duration of his desires without lessening their frequency.

The principal points of interest in the present connection which this case presents are the sexual excitement and ejaculation of semen produced by the sight of a naked man, a penis, or even of a nude statue, while at the same time there is absolute frigidity as regards woman. It is a true instance of sexual perversion, and of consequent impotence so far as concerns the female sex.

In another case, reported at great length by MM.

Charcot and Magnan, the subject had the sexual orgasm by thinking of the nails in women's shoes. It does not appear, however, that he was impotent as regards physiological sexual relations.

But in the following curious case there was a temporary state of impotence, and I therefore relate it as of interest in the present discussion.

The patient was thirty-seven years of age and of good constitution, but came of an eccentric family. He was studious, but learned with difficulty what he studied. He changed his occupation frequently, and would deprive himself of necessaries in order to purchase books and other articles to which he took a fancy.

At the age of five years, having been sleeping for several months with a female relative thirty years old, he experienced for the first time a singular phenomenon, which was no less than a genital excitement and an erection when he saw his bedfellow put on her night-cap. At about the same time he had occasion to see an old servant woman undress herself and put on her night-cap, and at once sexual excitement and an erection were produced. Later, the very idea of an old and wrinkled woman arrayed in a night-cap was sufficient to provoke the sexual orgasm. The sight of a night-cap by itself caused no disturbance, but contact with one caused erection and sometimes an emission. On the other hand he remembered that he had remained, at about his seventh year, absolutely irresponsive to attempts at masturbation made upon him by