

yielding. He has nerve to keep himself perfectly chaste till his marriage, and then to use with discretion whatever power he may have.

These cases will suffice to show two of the types of pederasts. There are others, but they are not essentially different from those that have been described, and the pen wearies of writing of such moral, physical and hygienic iniquities.

But there are other cases which require consideration, and which also lead to impotence, by causing a loss of the natural desire. Among these are those instances in which, without manual or other physical interference, the act of ejaculation, with excitement, is accomplished by a simple act of the imagination. A man, for instance, observes some woman, who proves to be capable of provoking sexual desire. He concentrates his attention on her, imagines the appearance of her vulva, and that he is effecting entrance, and then, step by step, by an effort of the will, brings before his mind's eye the successive stages of an act of sexual intercourse, and ends by experiencing the full sexual orgasm. There are men who never have any other form of orgasm but this; who cannot experience erections from the reality, but who accomplish this, and, in the way I have mentioned, readily, and often several times in the course of the day. As one of them said to me, "We have the stimulating influence of constant change, which we could never get in real sexual intercourse. We have the pick of the handsomest

women in town, and the enjoyment is infinitely greater than any intercourse could be." These men go into the street cars, the theatres and other public places, place themselves, so that they can fix their eyes on the centre of a woman's body, and then give a loose rein to the imagination. In a half minute, or a minute at furthest, the orgasm supervenes.

Three of these cases have come under my observation, and I have heard of others through these three. There appears to be a sort of association, or fellowship, with signs, by which they know each other. They have a coarse name which they apply to themselves, and to each other, and which may be paraphrased as "a man who has mental sexual intercourse." They profess to be able to tell by sight whether or not a man is one of the class in question.

One of the persons of the kind consulted me for epilepsy, which had been clearly brought about by the practice to which I refer. For several months he had had repeated attacks of fully developed epileptic paroxysms, not only during the orgasms produced by the method mentioned, but at night during sleep. He informed me that several of his class had "fits." This man had repeatedly had convulsions in the street, railway cars and other places. The last one had occurred in a picture-dealer's, a favorite place, with him, to observe nice-looking women. Having selected his "partner," he fixed his mind on her strongly, and imagined her in various lascivious positions. He had no diffi-

culty, he said, in bringing her image vividly before his mind in an entirely nude state. Then he went through a series of voluntary contractions of the gluteal and accelerator urinæ, and, perhaps, other muscles, and in less than a minute, generally, the emission with the orgasm took place. Sometimes, while mentally engaged with one woman, another would enter the apartment, handsomer or otherwise more attractive, and then he would change to her. He was able also to produce the orgasm by thinking of some woman whom he had previously seen, without the necessity of her being present before him. As to actual sexual intercourse, it gave him no pleasure, he was absolutely impotent with women and not even the imagination sufficed to awaken his desires in the attempt at connection.

Latterly, he had been unable to restrain the disposition to the production of the orgasm, which often took place at the mere sight of an attractive woman, and without being accompanied by an erection. At times there was no emission. Again, a painting or engraving of a woman, either clothed or in a nude or partially nude state, would cause an orgasm with or without erection or seminal ejaculation.

In this case, the penis and testicles were apparently in good condition, and there appeared to be no hyperæsthetic condition of the glans. He complained, however, of a burning sensation in the urethra whenever he passed his urine, and, on examination, I found an irritable state of the prostatic portion of the canal.

I treated this patient with large doses of bromide of sodium, twenty grains three times a day, and with urethral injections of cold water. His mental condition was entirely cured in the course of a few months, and the epilepsy was prevented while he continued to take the bromide. After that time I lost sight of him and, therefore, do not know whether there was, or not, any improvement in regard to the impotence. Probably there was not.

The other cases were similar in general features to this one. Epilepsy had been developed in each, but, as I only saw them once, I do not know the effects of the treatment.

The particulars of an interesting case of sexual perversion and impotence have been given me by a medical friend of this city, and with his permission I cite them here.

The subject was a foreign gentleman, about thirty-five years of age, whose whole life had been devoted to the gratification of his sexual appetite, and who seldom kept less than three mistresses at a time. When thirty years old he had married, but soon afterward his wife left him in consequence of his failing sexual powers and her objections to his mode of life.

Ordinarily he was unable to have an erection without obliging her to clothe herself in various fancy costumes, and to assume different positions, while he would sit and look at her till the desired result was obtained. Again, he would cause her to dress in a short, colored

chemise, and colored silk stockings, and then while she lay on a lounge he would regard her sometimes for over an hour before erection ensued. After a time this procedure failed, and he then resorted to the expedient of dressing her in the costumes of different nations, Persian, Egyptian, Hungarian, Swiss, etc. That these expedients also eventually failed there can be no doubt.

A case is reported,* in which there was "mental intercourse" similar to that referred to in the foregoing instances, and as the history is interesting in other respects, I cite it without abridgment.

"The patient is a highly cultivated gentleman of high moral character, the father of three or four healthy children, the result of an unusually happy marriage. 'At an early age,' said he, 'long before puberty, even, I had acquired a taste for indoor games, female pursuits and even attire, although the latter desire was never satisfied farther than wearing girls' shoes. I was also an admirer of small waists in ladies and, at the age of fourteen, tried to procure or make for myself a pair of corsets. As I grew older, my fondness for female dress increased, but, having no sisters, I could find no opportunity to gratify it, farther than reading stories of female impersonations, etc. I composed several stories entitled 'Adventures in Hoops,' and constructed stories founded on such plots. They were printed and extensively copied. To this day I seldom miss an oppor-

* "Gynomania: A curious case of Masturbation." *The Medical Record*, March 19, 1881.

tunity to see men take female parts on the stage, especially the more refined ones, like Leon, etc.'

"At the age of twenty-one years, he began the use of corsets, of which he is still very fond, and, although he laced himself very tightly for several years, he seems to have suffered no injury from it. He confessed that he had always derived a certain amount of sensual gratification from their use, and although, at first, he experienced some pain in the pubic region, and erections, he has since found that as soon as his corsets are pulled quite tight, erections cease, and that coition, as well as voluntary discharges, are impossible when he is tightly laced.

"From fear of impotence or other evil that might result from masturbation before marriage, he carefully avoided voluntary discharges of semen and remained continent before marriage. He recollects, however, having had three involuntary emissions while awake. The first occurred while horseback riding, and induced him to abandon this otherwise healthful exercise. The others happened while putting on a pair of very tight shoes (ladies' boots, with French heels) and buttoning them.

"After marriage he abstained from corsets and other articles of female attire (with rare exceptions), until two children had satisfied him of his potency.

"About this time our patient began to yield to the temptations which everywhere beset him, and returned to the very source whence he had first derived unlaw-

ful pleasure. But I will let him tell it: 'I purchased,' said he, 'a very stylish pair of ladies' high boots, with French heels, which were at first tight enough to make me limp. These boots he boldly wore upon the promenade in fine weather, with trousers elevated to show the heel. In bad weather he was wont to put on these boots and button them in front of a long mirror, about once a week. This seldom failed to cause not only an erection, but also an emission.

"When this had lost its novelty, he purchased a pair of corsets, not having worn them since marriage. As often as practicable with concealment he wore these, and laced them sometimes to faintness. These two articles, buttoned boots and corsets, seemed to have a most peculiar infatuation for him. Often while riding in a street car, if a lady with a small waist or pretty foot sat opposite, he would have a sort of mental coition, he called it, with this innocent paramour—an emission. M. Roubaud mentions the only case at all similar, where a young man was impotent, except with a light-haired woman wearing corsets, high boots, and a silk dress. The last three articles had a powerful influence on our patient, whether they were worn by man or woman.

"After this he descended step by step down the ladder, purchasing various articles of female attire, until at length he bought a black silk dress, which he had made to fit him very tightly, and in which he took great pride. Curls and switches, false hair, earrings and breast pins, all aided in feeding this peculiar fire. He would even

sit for hours tightly laced, while a ladies' hair-dresser curled and frizzed his hair like a woman's. At length he went so far as to walk the city streets, and even attend church, wearing his new black silk dress, caught up on one side so as to expose a white fluted skirt, beneath which his high-heeled French boots were visible. With heavily padded chest, tightly squeezed waist, enormous bustle, his hair tortured into fantastic forms, his ears in screw-vises, and his feet crowded into the narrowest, and most uncomfortable boots, he would walk for miles, or dance for hours, with great pleasure. In fact, physical pain seemed essential to his happiness, and he thoroughly and deeply enjoyed it, if it were only the pain inflicted by female attire. He imitated women's manner and habits to some extent, yet never used his disguise for improper purposes, except to excite an occasional emission.

"As before stated, he had always been an advocate of tight-lacing, had read extensively upon the subject, and collected all the literature that in any way favored or defended it. He several times tried to lace himself tightly enough to faint away, but never could. He even persuaded his wife to lace, and daily tightened her corsets, until he actually reduced her waist nearly *six inches*, which also gave him sensual gratification. A child born of her soon after was perfectly healthy and well formed.

"He showed me," continues Dr. H., the physician who reports the case, "several pictures of himself, in all

sorts of dresses: as a ballet-girl, as Queen Elizabeth, as a Polish maiden, an old maid, the Goddess of Liberty, as Juliet, and in a plain street-dress, which he wore to church a few years ago.

"Many times he swore off, but in vain. Sometimes he would remain free from his peculiar vice for weeks and months, when it would return with renewed vigor. I found him eating largely of animal food, but not of fat meat. Nitrogenous food alone suited his palate. I advised vegetable diet, but he found it distasteful to such a degree that I was forced to withdraw it. He used no stimulants except weak tea and coffee. Gave bromides for awhile and hope at length to conquer."

Sometimes there is, in individuals of a peculiarly impressionable nervous organization, sexual impotence as regards all women except those of a peculiar type, or clothed in a particular manner, or possessing some peculiarity, to which the person has become accustomed. Thus, in the case cited above from Roubaud,* the patient was impotent to all women different from the one with whom he had previously had sexual relations.

"M. X., son of a general of the first Empire, was brought up at his father's country seat, which he did not leave till he was eighteen years of age, when he went to the military school. During this long period of isolation in the country, he had been initiated, at the

* "Traité de l'impuissance et de la stérilité," etc., Troisième édition. Paris, 1876, p. 373.

age of fourteen, into an experience of the pleasures of love, by a young lady, a friend of the family. This lady, then twenty-one years old, was a blonde, wore her hair in the English style, that is to say, in corkscrew curls, and in order to lessen the liability of detection in her amorous intrigue, she never had intercourse with her young lover except when clothed in her day attire, that is to say, wearing gaiter boots, corsets and a silk gown.

"All these details I mention purposely, for they had greater influence, not only over the degree of excitability of the genital function, but over its very existence, in the case of M. X.

"The young lady was of strong passions, and as it appeared, exhausted the strength of the young neophyte, and the severe regimen of the military school was no more than sufficient to restore to the genital organs the energy which had been seriously affected by too early and too frequent indulgence.

"But when the period of his study had passed, and he was sent to a garrison, and was disposed to enjoy the rights which nature had restored, he perceived that sexual desire was only provoked by certain women, and with the concurrence of certain circumstances. Thus, a brunette did not produce in him the slightest emotion, and a woman in her night-dress was sufficient to extinguish and freeze every amorous transport.

"In order that he might experience the venereal desire, it was necessary that the woman should be a

blonde, should wear gaiter boots, should be laced in a corset, wear a silk gown, and, in a word, fulfill all the requirements of the lady who had first caused M. X. to experience the sexual orgasm.

"And this was not by reason of any sentimental love, the magic power of which lasts through a lifetime. In his early sexual relations, M. X. had only been actuated by animal desire. His heart had never been touched, and after twenty-five years, in consulting me for his singular infirmity, he declared that he had loved with his heart but one woman, and to her he had never been able to render homage for, by a perverse coincidence, she was a brunette.

"His fortune, his name, his social position, made it a duty of M. X. to marry, but he had always resisted the solicitations of his family and his friends, for he knew that he would be incapable of availing himself of his marital rights, with a wife arrayed in the costume of the nuptial bed. Yet he was in good health, was of the sanguino-choleric temperament, was above the medium height and was of so strong a constitution that for fifteen years he had been an officer in a regiment of heavy cavalry.

"Evidently his impotence was relative only, for, when the woman was blonde and when the other conditions specified existed, he accomplished the sexual act with all the ardor of a healthy man and one of an amorous disposition.

"Retiring to civil life, and tormented more than ever

by his family on the subject of his marriage, he was anxious to make a last effort, and accordingly consulted me."

This patient was cured by moral means, to which reference will be more fully made hereafter.

These cases of impotence as regards certain women, while there is full sexual power with others, are not infrequently met with in medical practice, and, indeed, relative want of desire may be regarded as in some respects a normal phenomenon. A young man of strong passions, and yet educated and refined, will not be likely to exhibit desire toward an old, and ugly, and otherwise disagreeable hag. No matter how vigorous the animal part of his organism might be, or energetic the erection, both would give way, in presence of the absolute failure of sexual desire. But there are cases such as that cited from Roubaud, in which even trifling circumstances or conditions, or the influence of some long-continued habit, abolishes all desire, and renders the individual, for the time being at least, impotent unless the situation is in every respect assimilated to that to which he is accustomed. I have already given instances in which this state existed in regard to all women, and in which unless certain preliminaries were provided for, connection was not only impossible, but was often repulsive.

The absence of desire on the part of a young man towards an old and ugly woman is an entirely natural phenomenon, and one, therefore, not calling for medical

treatment, but cases like the following are certainly more or less abnormal, and are such as in regard to which physicians are often consulted.

A married gentleman, who before entering into the matrimonial state, had been excessively given to sexual intercourse, but who had no reason to think that his powers were exhausted, or even materially weakened, found himself on his wedding night and for some days thereafter, absolutely incapable of consummating the marriage. His wife was a highly educated, intelligent, refined and beautiful woman; he was devotedly attached to her, and on marrying had once and for all given up all the evil associations of his younger days. His passions were strong, but as soon as he attempted intercourse, the desire, which he had previously entertained, vanished at the thought that it was a profanation for a man like him to subject so beautiful and pure a woman to such an animal relation as sexual intercourse. "She is too good for me," he would say to himself, "I ought to have married a woman used to this sort of thing; or, better still, have remained single and gone on in the old way." This happened several times, and then, in disgust with himself, he paid a visit to one of his former female associates, and in a short time satisfied himself that his powers were as good as ever. Again he essayed the act with his wife, and again he met with disappointment.

He had now been married a week, and the marriage was still unconsummated. He then came under my care.

A case like his presented very little difficulty: I reminded him of the fact that in all probability, however pure and noble his wife might be, there was no profanation in sexual intercourse, chastely undertaken; that she had sexual organs which were intended for the performance of certain functions; that these functions were all connected with the propagation of the human species; that there was but one way that I knew of by which the species could be propagated; that she had selected him as the one man who was to put her in the way of fulfilling her office in the grand scheme of nature, and that my advice to him was to lower his estimate of her angelic character, and to look upon her in the not less worthy light of a woman to be treated as other women are treated under like circumstances. He left, promising to be less exalted in his appreciation, but the next morning returned with the information that it was no use: he had tried his best, his erections were strong and repeated, but as soon as he went further towards the object he had in view his desire became utterly extinguished. "She was too good, too delicate for a mere animal like him; he could not desecrate her beautiful body by any such vile act," etc., etc.

From a few words which he let drop, I became convinced that the lady was not so platonic a creature as he thought, and, that if I could have a few words of conversation with her, I could probably end the matter to the satisfaction of both parties. I therefore expressed a wish to see his wife, and that afternoon, with his con-