

urged thereto by mere animal instinct. He abstains altogether, or he seeks satisfaction for his emotion and his appetite from some woman capable of arousing both. But with women the case is altogether different, unless with the members of the class who make a merchandise of their bodies, and even with them the sentiment of love, transient though it may be, is often aroused. With the rest, it is doubtful if in one-tenth of the instances of intercourse they experience the slightest pleasurable sensation from first to last. The virtuous married woman submits passively and is impotent. She loses the power of accomplishing her part of the sexual act; or if married through the force of circumstances that she cannot resist to a man she abhors, she never experiences the least pleasure from his embraces. On the contrary, they inspire her with supreme loathing.

In such cases as these the physician can do nothing; death or the divorce court opens the only way to relief, and then a second and happier marriage completes the cure.

There is another species of impotence met with in women which, though not complete, is distressing and often leads to nervous complications of a serious character. It is that form in which, with strong desire and the ability to experience the orgasm in all its intensity, this condition is never attained for the reason that the man has reached the acme while the woman has not arrived at this point. With this result the penis be-

comes flaccid, and the act is at an end so far as the man is concerned, while the woman remains with her nervous system excited to a high pitch, and brought to a state of expectancy which is not realized. It is generally the case that women are slower to reach the height of the venereal paroxysm than are men. From the beginning of the act they experience a certain degree of pleasure, but this is not developed to its utmost extent as rapidly as it is with the opposite sex. Probably in a state of nature there is no difference in this respect between men and women, but civilization has imposed restrictions on the development of the sexual appetite in the one sex, while it has set few or no limits to its exercise in the other. The consequence is an impetuosity in men and a shrinking delicacy and reserve in women. It often happens that with the continuance of sexual relations this inequality in a great measure disappears, but this is not by any means always the case, and many women with strong desires and loving their husbands go through life with scarcely an idea of what sexual intercourse really is, they never having experienced to the full the pleasurable sensations characteristic of coition.

For many such cases as these the remedial measures, though they may not consist of more than a few sensible though plain spoken words, should be addressed to the husband. If, however, it appears that there is any necessity for stimulating the sexual faculty of the wo-

man, the following prescription may be given with probable advantage:

℞ Cannabis indicæ ext.,
Nucis vomicæ ext., āā ʒ ss.
Aloes ext. aquosæ, gr. x.
M. ft. pil No. C.
Dose, one three times a day.

In addition, hot water vaginal douches should be used just before going to bed. Under the use of these measures I have had patients under my charge experience decided benefit. So much under the influence of habit is the whole matter of sexual intercourse that improvement when once effected is likely to become permanent.

Masturbation is among the chief causes of indifference of women for sexual intercourse, and consequent inability to experience the orgasm during coition. The reasons for this effect are almost identical with those given for a like condition existing in men who have been addicted to this vice. The images formed by the imagination are so much more intense than those met with in actual life that the latter do not produce the degree of excitation necessary for the production of the orgasm. This constitutes a condition of actual impotence according to the system of classification laid down in this work.

It is difficult to treat with success cases such as those now under consideration even under the most favorable circumstances. It generally happens that these

cannot be obtained. First among them is the total renunciation of the habit of masturbation; second, absolute rest of the sexual organs, so far as intercourse is concerned, for a period long enough to enable them to recover their lost tone. This varies in different cases, but is not often less than a year. Third, the avoidance of all lascivious associations or thoughts. To secure these conditions is, as I have said, difficult. Without them it is scarcely worth while for the physician to undertake the case. If, however, they can be secured, there is a fair prospect that in time a cure can be accomplished. It will be facilitated by social intercourse with men and women of high moral character. Medicines are of little use unless there is some special indication to be met. The treatment is not so much physical as mental. I am not now considering the question of the effects of masturbation, except so far as they relate to sexual indifference and impotence as regards the male sex. If I were, there would of course be much to say on the subject.

Excessive sexual intercourse is also productive of effects in women similar to those which follow it in men. In these cases the nerve cells of the centre presiding over the function doubtless become exhausted, and no longer properly respond to the stimulus which in natural conditions sets them in action. There is no erection of the clitoris or of the other parts in contiguity that, like it, are endowed with erectile tissue; no development of pleasure from the friction of the penis against these

organs and the vagina, and if the orgasm is reached the result is imperfect and the voluptuous sensations at their minimum. With this condition it sometimes happens that desire remains as strong as ever, while at other times it is extinct.

Such cases are to be treated on the same principles as those laid down in the first section of this work for the management of the like condition in men. Chief among them is entire abstinence and the avoidance of every factor calculated through the sight, the hearing, the touch, the memory, to stimulate organs already exhausted. At the same time, a mild tonic treatment should be adopted. The prescription given on page 120 answers very well, and in addition the wine of coca may be advantageously taken—a wineglassful at each meal. If the sensibility of the erectile tissues and the lining membrane of the vagina are notably diminished, electricity may be used with benefit. It is, in my opinion, far superior to the embrocations recommended by some French authorities. These contain some stimulating substance, such as mustard, ammonia, alcohol, etc., and may be used when electricity is not available. The faradaic current applied by means of a wet sponge placed in the vulva while the other is held in contact with the lumbar or vulvar region, is an eligible form of administering electricity. The galvanic current may, however, be employed, and in some cases acts better than the faradaic.

In all such instances the wife should sleep apart from her husband, and preferably in separate rooms. The reasons for this course are obvious, and need not therefore be further specified.



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