

the normal channels is effected. By it we have the means of increasing the lumen of the punctæ and canaliculi without excessive stretching, which must necessarily alter the conditions of the surrounding muscular and other structures.

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MATERNAL IMPRESSIONS.

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The definition of maternal impressions is that a profound and sudden impression made on the mother's mind may pervert or stop the growth, or cause defect in the child with which she is pregnant.

Maternal influences over the young have been recognized from the earliest history of man. The thirtieth chapter of Genesis gives Jacob's policy whereby he became rich. He pilled the rods of green poplar, hazel and chestnut and set them before Laban's herd and by maternal impressions he colored enough of the herd in ten or a dozen years to become rich.

And the next chapter tells us of Rachel's influence over Joseph and Benjamin to impress the race of mankind.

While this force has been recognized among all nations of people, it is only in the last few years that an attempt has been made to separate the truisms from the superstitions on this subject. In fact if you wanted the greatest superstition for ages, the one on maternal impressions would linger to haunt the members of each new generation.

There are two classes of defects which have been attributed to these impressions: The perceptible or bodily deformities, and the imperceptible or mental defects. First, the perceptible or bodily defects, we will verify by a few well authenticated cases:

I attended a multipara mother a few years ago, who gave birth to an acephalous fetus. The head of the child had no bones at the side and top part of the cranium. The top of the head was even with the superciliary ridges and auditory meatus, showing total absence of a cerebrum. The scalp was complete and well covered with hair. The child was well formed and above the average in size. It was stillborn. The mother believed the cause of this to be the caring for a sick dog while she was in the third month of pregnancy. But Prof. Rudolph Virchow of Berlin, thinks that these cases are the result of hydrocephalus.

Dr. Joseph Haven reported the following case to the Chicago Medical Society, Dec. 9, 1895: "Twelve or fourteen years ago I was in attendance upon a family in this city, one of whose members was a little girl 8 or 10 years old, extremely nervous and high strung, who possessed an uncontrollable fear of dogs. Anything in the canine race, even the picture of a dog would distress her. Her mother, explaining the matter to me, said that while carrying the child *in utero* she had been frightened by a dog, and that the girl had inherited that fear. As the child grew older she did not outgrow that tendency. During an attack of typhoid fever, in her delirium she had frequent visions of dogs, so that it was often necessary to employ narcotics to quiet her. The child grew up and was married, shortly after which she became pregnant. About the sixth week of pregnancy I was sent for in a hurry. I found Mrs. D. hysterically excited. I was told that in going out of the yard a neighbor's dog jumped upon her and terribly frightened her. She

was put to bed, began to flow, and a miscarriage seemed imminent. But she was tided over. I saw her daily after that for some time. She assured me that her child would be marked like a dog. I tried to disabuse her mind of this idea. Time went on and about the third month the same dog jumped on her again and bit her in the foot, inflicting a slight lacerated wound. It was some time before I could go to the case and when I reached the house a miscarriage had just taken place. I took possession of the fetus, being careful that the mother should not see it. On account of the peculiarity of the specimen I secured the dog that had been the occasion of so much trouble, and to-night I show you the skull of the dog which I would like to have you compare with the little monster. Those who believe in the transmission of maternal impressions will get some consolation from examining these specimens, and those who believe such results happen as mere coincidences will have to account for this freak as best they can."

Here is a case that occurred in the practice of my colleague, Dr. J. C. Sutherlin of Ladoga. This case differs from any that I have known or read of, the impression being caused by an act of anger on the mother's part. At about the fourth month of pregnancy she was insulted by a minister. She was getting a meal at the time and was in a perfectly good humor, but happened to have a large knife in her hand. The minister had his right hand, palm down, resting on a table. The insult was unexpected and made her so intensely angry that she struck at his fingers with the knife, fully intending to cut them off, which fortunately missed the culprit and left him unharmed. A female child was born with the ends of the fingers amputated on the right hand, the same hand the mother used in striking.

One of the most striking cases reported is that of Dr. Addenbroke, *British Medical Journal*, May 13, 1871. "Two women, sisters, both at about the third or fourth month of pregnancy, were assisting their mother, who was an invalid, to night stool, when she was suddenly paralyzed on one side. The daughters were greatly shocked, and at full term each gave birth to a child with facial paralysis on one side."

We could go on and multiply cases well authenticated showing how these impressions have marked the skin, pierced holes in the ears, maimed and deformed the extremities, injured the arterial and nervous systems, indeed, caused malformations in every organ and part of the body.

Professor Rokitansky, the great pathologist, says that mental emotions do influence the development of the embryo. He also refers to the frequent anomalies of vascular system caused by them.

The period of pregnancy is most liable to impressions for bodily defects in the third and fourth months. There may be an excess as well as an arrest of development. Some of the imperceptible or mental impressions are very hard to discriminate from certain hereditary traits. Now, there is no doubt that sudden or prolonged impressions on the mother's mind will cause bodily defects. How easy it would be to derange the soft pulpy brain structures with its thousands of delicate cells and pervert their action for future use, thus giving us more evidence for charity to our weaker members of society. How well I remember this statement from an intelligent, proud society woman of Crawfordsville. She raised two boys and they were both affected with alcoholic dip-

somania. One studied law with Lew Wallace, who said he possessed a bright mind and was gifted with oratory. The other was a most efficient clerk and salesman. They spent a fortune and both died a premature death, slaves to their appetite. This mother told me, with tears in her eyes, that she could never blame the boys like others, for she craved whisky while carrying both of them, till she would weep with agony. The father was an excellent man morally, and accumulated a fortune by his own work.

James I. would pale at the sight of a drawn sword, alleged to have been caused by his mother, while pregnant, seeing Rizzio cut down.

One of France's bravest generals, whose courage Napoleon said was the best, became pale and tremulous when he saw a sword, caused by his father in a fit of jealousy trying to kill his mother.

The following is what the *Commercial Tribune* says about the child murderer, Carl McElhinney of Dalton, Ohio: "The question, is the boy morally responsible, remains unanswered. Half a dozen physicians of this and the surrounding towns have labored in vain to solve the mystery of Carl McElhinney's peculiar brain. At a consultation of two physicians, it was decided that the child murderer was not, and is not, mentally deranged. Further facts, however, were not established. Dr. H. R. Bittern, one of the examiners, propounded a theory based on anterior conditions. Said he: 'This is only a theory, and is presented merely to help a solution of the mystery of the mental condition of seven-year-old McElhinney, and is not to be taken as my final conclusion. I have some belief in the inheritance of mental idiosyncrasies. Both Mr. and Mrs. McElhinney were of sound and healthy mind. However, at and before the birth of Carl, I believe, Mrs. McElhinney's mind was not in an easy, natural and normal condition. This might account for Carl's singular mental formation. Before Carl's birth Mrs. McElhinney was an assiduous reader of novels. Morning, noon and night her mind was preoccupied with imaginative crimes of the most bloody sort. Being a woman of fine and delicate perception, she appreciated to an extent almost equaling reality the extravagant miseries, motives, villainies set down in novels, so that her mind was miserably contorted weeks before the birth of her child Carl. The boy was an abnormal development of criminality. He has a delight in the inhuman. It takes intense horror to please this peculiar appetite. Murderer Holmes was such a being, but even he did not show his tendencies before maturity. I believe criminal record does not show a case so remarkable as this. As the boy matures these mental conditions will mature. He is dangerous to the community, and I doubt that even a severe schooling in one of our severest reformatories would better his condition. However, by all means, he should be sent to one.'

Wars or any tumult in society that may excite fear, anxiety or grief in pregnant women are dangerous. The instance of idiotic and stillborn children to the number of one hundred being born near the great siege of Landou in 1793, proves this.

We, as scientific physicians, who Dr. Victor C. Vaughan says are one hundred years in advance of the politician, should teach our patrons how to care for our pregnant women, and the danger from maternal influences. The Spartans bred warriors, and I believe this generation can breed a better people. One of the future advances to help the generations to

come, will be to teach them the power of maternal influences, with better care of our pregnant women. This, with a proper knowledge of the dangerous hereditary diseases in marriage, will strengthen the human race.

EVOLUTION OF GIRLS.

Read in the Section on Diseases of Children, at the Forty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, held at Atlanta, Ga., May 5-8, 1896.

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The question whether man has ascended from the monkey or descended from "a little lower than the angels" does not matter in the present discussion; also whether women have passed to a higher or lower plane in the evolution of our higher woman; whether it is a higher sphere to wield the keen, logical brain of a Maria Mitchell or to be the mother of a host of well trained sons as Cornelia, is not pertinent to the present subject. For the reason that popular opinion, before which we all fall prostrate, says woman's brain, whatever its capacity, must be made to hold a certain amount of book lore which we call an education. Sometimes when we have this erudition applied we think with the poet, "Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers."

"Go on to perfection" is the motto written above every scientific laboratory door; and one of the most weighty problems for the scientists now to solve is, how can the little tiny mite of brain force, which has just given its first feeble wail of protest against the tremendous activity of the nineteenth century, be evolved into the vast intellect which she must have when she becomes a higher woman, with the least loss of nerve force?

The majority of our women are the victims of nerve exhaustion. How can it be prevented? If child nurses can only be taught to watch the promptings of nature and assist her in her work the task of developing infancy into perfect womanhood would be a comparatively easy one. But the mother usually wastes all her nerve energy in useless repining from the time that she believes a new spark of life has been kindled until the anguish she dreads has been endured, or she is spending it in a vain effort to have a perfect child. One of our very highest women, a university graduate, said to me when I was called to prescribe for her three-weeks-old baby, "I was so anxious to have my child well born that I studied and practiced every detail of diet and mental gymnastics laid down in tokology and several kindred works, but I almost died when baby was born, and here he is, as you see, continually unhappy. He has been fed at the breast under the guidance of a trained nurse recommended by my physician, and her regimen has been very exacting. The only time the child seems comfortable is when he is disrobed for his bath, although the clothes have been made and are worn according to the directions sent out by one of the largest sanitariums in the country." "Well, my dear madam," I replied, "you were so anxious to have your child well born that he has gone clear back to the state of primeval innocence of the Garden of Eden. If you had rested your brain by pleasant reading, eaten what was wholesome and nourishing, in reasonable quantities at accustomed times, and then allowed nature to care for it without spoiling her work by torturing yourself with imagining that the food would injure you or