

Asylum Notes.

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Extract from Pathological Supplement of the Thirty-seventh Annual Report of the Government Hospital for the Insane, 1892.

Summary of results found in seventy-three cases of mental diseases in females, with special reference to the condition of the organs of generation.

The study was undertaken mainly for the purpose of bringing together the lesions found in the generative organs; a complete synopsis of the cases is embodied in the report.

Gross organic disease of the brain was found in quite a number of cases, and the microscope revealed interesting changes in the majority; in many, however, the vascular changes and cell degenerations were only those incident to long standing insanity and to old age in common. In the sixty-nine cases in which the abdominal organs were examined, leiomyomata of the uterus, often multiple, were found in seventeen cases, fifteen of which were colored. The tumors were all small, the largest not over two inches in diameter, so that the disturbance occasioned by them could not have been great. Uterine polypi of small size occurred in six cases. Adhesions of the uterus, or some of its appendages, were present in seventeen cases; of these, fifteen were colored women. Cysts of the ovaries, usually small and unimportant, were found in eleven cases; atrophy of the ovaries was noted in twenty-three—usually in elderly women, and therefore physiological. The uterus was apparently smaller than usual in twelve cases, chiefly in aged women. There was but one case of malignant disease affecting the uterus, and that was due to an extension from the urinary bladder; there were only five malignant tumors found in any part of the body. It is somewhat surprising that so little serious disease was found in the organs of generation in so many women, the greater number of whom were from the lower walks of life. A great many of the conditions noted were unim-

portant, and though in some cases the lesions found may have, at some time, caused reflex mental symptoms, it must be concluded that in the majority the changes present at the autopsies had little to do with the mental disease. The occurrence of the tumors was merely incidental, and had nothing to do with the mental disease.

Toledo, Ohio, Asylum for the Insane, Ninth Annual Report, 1892.—Extract from the Report of the Gynecologist.

Fifteen cases of chronic endometritis have been treated successfully. Cœliotomy for diseased uterine appendages has been performed four times, all resulting in recovery.

The effect of relief upon the mental condition has been favorable in all of the cases, and very marked in some, though it is too soon after operation to know whether improvement will be permanent.

The hysterical element has been more or less pronounced in each case, and there has been least improvement in chronic cases. Five of the fifteen cases have gone to their homes, and remain well, so far as known. The result in the four cases of cœliotomy cannot be told so soon after the operation, but there is every prospect of complete restoration to mental health in two and marked improvement in all.

Connecticut Hospital for the Insane, Twenty-fourth Report, 1892.

The 176 female patients admitted last year were subjected to studious inquiry as to the state of the pelvic organs. In about one-third of the cases physical examination was unavoidably incomplete for various reasons.

In one-half of the total number admitted pathological conditions were observed, and in fifty-three of these persons local treatment appeared to be unquestionably indicated.

Several, who recovered their reason, may have owed mental restoration partly to the measures, which, by allaying a source of irritation, contributed to the comfort and physical well-being of the patient. While this bit of experience did not tend to support the idea, sometimes suggested, that insanity in women is largely due to uterine disease, it strengthened the opinion that abnormal conditions of the sexual organs, if not searched for, may fail to receive requisite attention.