

The uterus, being insufficiently supported by fat and having its muscular texture rendered rotten by toxins, flops into different positions. It may bend sharply forwards if the patient stands much, or it may drop directly back and rest on the termination of the large bowel, where it interferes enormously with the evacuation of the contents of that tube. In either case, especially in the latter, the back-flow of blood from the uterus is impaired, and it becomes gorged with blood and large and swollen, and its lining membrane hypertrophies. This produces endless distress, only temporarily if at all alleviated by operative measures.

It also annoys the bladder and produces much discomfort in consequence. The ovaries also suffer very much from the engorgement and from the displacement which they experience from the changed position of the uterus. When irritated and annoyed for a long time they tend to undergo degenerative changes of an inflammatory, cystic or of a cancerous nature. The uterus degenerates in the same manner.

The skin undergoes changes which are very characteristic. It loses its firmness and elasticity and appears thin, flaccid and plastic. It becomes stained, especially where it is exposed to any frictional changes, as about the neck, the axilla, the abdomen, and groins. The staining becomes apparent in the first instance about the eyelids, from which it is most difficult to dislodge it.

The conjunctiva becomes gorged and thick and gives the eye a very dull look. The cornea may also degenerate at its margin. The skin over the back of the upper arm becomes swollen and gelatinous, often bluish, and covered with papules or pimples. This may be so marked as to prevent the use of short sleeves.

A thin down of hair extends over the cheeks and forearms.

All these symptoms vary enormously with the colour of the hair of the sufferer and the extent of its distribution.

Red-haired people have a resisting power to this form of poisoning that is extraordinary, while the darker the hair the more readily do these degenerative symptoms manifest themselves.

These poisons have a marked influence on the breasts. They produce changes in them in proportion to the degree of poisoning. In the first instance the upper and outer zone of the left breast feels harder than normal, and later

distinctly nobbly. This process extends to the upper and outer zone of the right breast and after a time to the entire breast. Cystic and later cancerous changes may develop in these damaged breasts.

The condition of the breast is of great importance, since it serves as an indication or barometer of the degree of toxicity of the sufferer.

The influence exerted by the toxins on the brain is most distressing in its results. They damp down the intellectual and motor functions of this organ, making the patient dull, miserable, stupid and unfit to perform any mental or physical work. Headache, neuritis, sleeplessness, disturbed nights, bad temper, want of control of all sorts are all produced by these poisons. These patients are called neurotic or neurasthenic, the effect being, as is usual in medicine, readily accepted as the cause, and ineffectual attempts resembling prison discipline in its severity are employed to treat them. The only benefit these patients receive from the treatment is from the recumbency, and this is due to the fact that a patient who is miserable in the erect posture drains sufficiently well in the horizontal position to make life durable.

The poison in the circulation exerts upon the tissues such a damaging influence that they are no longer able to resist the entry of organisms. For instance, the gums, especially about the lower incisor teeth, become invaded by organisms from food resting in the interval between them and the teeth. They become inflamed in consequence, and this process, extending deeper and deeper along the root of the tooth, results in the tooth being loosened and pushed out. The poisonous products of this suppuration are swallowed and add to the amount of filth in the drainage scheme and to the degree of poisoning of the system.

The skin suffers largely from the depreciation in its vitality, and pustular and other infections readily arise in it.

I can best illustrate the influence of these poisons on the tissues by two specific diseases, namely, tubercle and rheumatic gout. I choose them as the truth of my contention can be demonstrated absolutely by operation. I do not believe it is possible to get either of these diseases unless the patient is suffering from auto-intoxication consequent on defective gastro-intestinal drainage. Hence you see the vital importance of obviating the entry of these and other organisms by careful attention to the drainage scheme and also of eliminating them once they have obtained a foothold.

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