

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

Ammonia

SUBMITTED TO THE

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DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY

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OF

Mississippi

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Dedicated

to

Gen W. Liddell M.D.

of

Mississippi

by

His Pupil

"The Author,"

Amenorrhoea

Surveying a catalogue of Subjects, in search of one upon which to write my dissertation I have chosen this not because I deem it of more importance than many others, but for the simple reason that it is not so commonly written upon. Although this is as well deserving the closest attention and study of every Physician as any other, especially so for it pertains alone to the fair sex. Therefore if one wishes to avoid being very much embarrassed and perplexed in treating it. It should be thoroughly understood. I suppose that it will not be expected of me, to add any-

- thing new to the stock of knowl-
edge already brought to light
upon this subject, but merely
to condense and endorse
the opinions of former authors
who have had more experien-
ce with the disease, and
better opportunities for inves-
tigation,

By the term amenorrhœia is
understood an absence of
the menstrual flow. For a
more convenient description
it is divided into ^{two} varieties, viz,
Emansio Mensium, where they have
never appeared and Suppressio
Mensium, where they have
appeared but have been
arrested from any cause

The first may arise from a variety of causes as congenital malformation as an absence of the ovaries uterus, Obstruction of the Cervix or an imperforate hymen
The second may depend upon the health or habits of the patient, and of ten upon sudden emotions, as joy, and fear, and cold, exposure, &c

Symptoms, They are divided into Constitutional and Local, The first is characterized by a fullness in the chest, pain in the back and head, shooting pains through the pelvis, and down the

trials, and sometimes a monthly
diarrhoea. The only local
symptom is and absence
of the Menstrual flow
Diagnosis, This is very difficult
indeed for there may be an
absence of the menses, and
the patient not suffering
from amenorrhoea,

For instance a patient may
apply to a Physician stating
that she is suffering very
much from amenorrhoea
By examining the case care-
fully and finding that her
general health is good, and
there is no constitutional
disturbance, But still there
is an absence of the menses.

Now on account of the many fatal mistakes which have been made, should they ever be attentive to making accurate diagnosis, as there are a great many shoals and quicksands in the track of a young practitioner, who fills his sails with the prosperous and flattering winds of his earliest success. He would find himself under obligations to a good rule who should firmly resolve never to pronounce any opinions, as to the Catamenial disorder, until he has formed a solid and inexpugnable judgement on the cases submitted to his decision.

We are taught to suspect of pregnancy every married woman who complains of amenorrhoea, and be, therefore treated as if measles existed for supposing her to be gravid. Then if by the lapse of time, or the occurrence of circumstances, a solid conviction can be had that the patient is not pregnant. She may be sufficiently early subjected to treatment comfortable to her wants.

In like manner, in young unmarried women failing to menstruate, yet exhibiting no other evidence of disordered health, for there

is always time enough to
consider what may be
required in the treatment
As is generally the case in
all other suppressed or defi-
-cient discharges, the Amen-
orrhœia may depend upon
an increased or deficient
vascular action, as shown
in Plethora and Anæmia
Plethora, This is characterised
by a full and strong pulse,
pain in the head and back,
flushed face &c

It will be proper in all such
cases to resort to general
blood letting, and administer
saline cathartics and a low
diet. Should there be consid-

-erable uneasiness in the uterine region, it would be advisable to apply cups to the Sacrum and Coccyx to the Vulva, and upper and inner part of the thighs, and warm hip bath, After this if the uneasiness still be severe, it may be proper to administer a full dose of clovers powder, at bed time, to be repeated if necessary to procure ease After having in this way restored the patients health The menstruation will usually return, if not, will become necessary to resort to some of the emmenagoga remedies which I shall mention hereafter,

Anemia. This is exactly an opposite state of the system from the one which I have just considered.

It is characterised by general palor, pale tongue, the pulse has a gaseous feel, the patient is very much fatigued by a little exercise, and the liver and bowels are generally torpid. The first thing to be observed in the restoration of the patients health, is to excite the liver and bowels to action, and especially to correct the state of the ~~blood~~ At the same time keeping the bowels open by mild laxatives. The preparations

of iron should be used as they
are entirely indispensable
in this condition of the system,
also a proper regulation of
the diet, digestion, clothing,
moderate exercise, by a change
of scene, travelling &c

The shower bath has been known
to prove beneficial, gradually
made cooler, as the system is
found to react under its use
It happens that these remedies
while they tend to improve
the general health, have a
direct favorable influence
upon the uterine functions
which is thus generally restor-
ed along with the strength
of the patient.

It often happens from the long
continuance of the ovaries
in a torpid condition, that
they will fail to act when
the general health is fully
restored. We are then to ^{have}
recourse to emmenagogues
Alois are thought to be bene-
ficial, as they have a decid-
ed influence over the uter-
ine functions. Myrrh is fre-
quently added to the Alois
with beneficial results.
Among the most efficient
emmenagogues is the am-
moniated tincture of guaiac
in the dose of a drachm
two or three times a day
Also tincture of Cantharides

administered until stranguary
is produced, and afterwards
kept within these bounds
Oil of turpentine, Savino and
various others, which I deem
unnecessary to mention, are
frequently used with decided
benefit.

Electricity is ~~considered~~ to
be one of the best, and
most powerful emmen-
agogues we possess. Applied
by means of a galvanic bat-
tery, placing one pole upon
the Sacrum, and the other
part above the Symphysis
pubis. Thus passing a current
of electricity directly through
^{the} uterine region. Menstruation

has been known frequently
to come on during the ap-
-plication of this remedy,
When all other means have
failed, Other Local measures
addressed to the uterus are also
Sometime advantageous, A
hot ripe leech is strongly stim-
ulant to that organ, and a
bleeder to the Sacrum &

In all cases of amenorrhoea
arising from Congenital
malformation, an exam-
-ination per vaginam should
be made, and means em-
-ployed to relieve the patient
But if there is, as often happens
from a deficiency of nature
no ovaries or uterus, a vagina

in any in a Cal-de-Sac at the
bottom of a well developed
external genitalia, as has
been seen to be the case
Nothing can of course be
done to remedy the gross
of nature.

It will sometimes be found the
case that there is a well
developed vagina &c, but a
very small ^{uterus} which is not fully
developed. It has also a very
small os and cervix, and
by balancing it upon the
index finger, it will be found
to be very light. Now what
is to be done in case of this
kind. We are indebted to Dr
Simpson for a knowledge

Concerning the treatment of
these kind of cases

He has invented means
by which he says it can be
remedied. It consists in
introducing within the vagina
a pessary; which is compo-
-sed of equal proportions
of zinc and copper, called
Jimpsons galvanic pessary
it is about the size of a
walnut. And by the irri-
-tation it produces it invites
a flow of blood to the part
and naturally causes an
enlargement of that organ
By continuing the use of it
until it becomes sufficiently
enlarged to admit of the

introduction of a very
small one into the cavity
of the uterus. Which acts more
directly upon it, and as
soon as it becomes suf-
ficiently developed men-
-struation will ensue

There are several diseases
in which the menstruation
is suppressed as in Liver
diseases. Plethoric pulmonalis
and various others

The Physician should be very
careful and never address
remedies to the uterus in
cases like these, but first
to remove the disease if possible
and the menstruation will re-
turn. Always bearing in

Mind that the patient
 is not sick because she
 does not menstruate
 but that she does not men-
 -struate because she is sick
 or in other words that the
 Amenorrhoea may be only
 a symptom of deranged
 health.

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