AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

on

The possibility of conception the result of a rape.

SUBMITTED TO THE
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by
B. Girard Bidwell,
of
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To W.R. Bowling, M.D.,
Prof. of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, in the University of Nashville, as a testimonial of his appreciation of your superior attainments as a Medical Philosopher; and esteem for your many private and public virtues, this dissertation is respectfully inscribed by the Author.
The possibility of conception, the result of a rape.

There is certainly nothing more revolting to the feelings of a man than the violation of the chastity and purity of woman. And it is our special duty as physicians to guard and protect him, against all assaults, that would tend in the least to rob him of the brightest jewel that glitters in his crown—her virgins. We have in our power in a great degree to maintain for him the high and noble position to which mankind by common consent has elevated him; or we may, by virtue of our position and influence, consign him to the withering blasts of disgrace. Possessing then,
as we certainly do; the means for
his self, or his disgrace, we should
be careful in our dispositions of
them. While I consider it the highest
compliment one could bestow upon
the heroes and protect their
honor; it is also our duty to
pronounce her guilt; their faults
and virtues with blame against
her. It becomes us, as men of
science, to reflect the revealed
facts of science, as laid bare to
us by our own investigations
or those of men of acknowledged
ability and research.

The possibility of conceiving
The result of a safe, is a surprising
that should engage the interest
of all hours of justice, or searchers
The importance of this question, involving as it does, not only the character and estates of individuals; but, even their lives, is unquestionably sufficient reason why we should be able to pronounce against the guilty and acquit the innocent accused. In the investigation of this subject, I shall not treat of rape in the broad and comprehensive sense in which it is treated by authors. But, as it occurs, in connection with a healthy adult female capable of procreation. It will also be necessary, in order to present the questions as fairly as possible, to consider that act fully consummated at conception.
is not the inevitable result of 
conception; I shall first consider 
the possibility of conception, and 
then the possibility of its resulting 
in conception. It is proper to 
remark here, that this distinction 
between conception and conceiving 
is made upon the authority of 
Dr. Barlow, most others consider 
them identical the same.

In order for conception to occur, 
it is absolutely necessary that the 
semen of the male should come 
in direct contact with the ovum 
of the female; and those who 
deny the possibility of conceiving 
the result of all course, contends 
that such union will never 
take place under such circumstances.
Upon an examination of the spermatozoon of the Lemon, it has been known, that they are endowed with independent acting capsules, capable of moving about one inch in thirteen minutes. It would seem that a knowledge of this fact, more sufficient to explain, the much wanted question, by what means are the spermatozoon made to find their way into the Fallopian tubes and ovaries? The action of the walls of the uterus and Fallopian tubes, may have come to play a vital part in the progress of these minute particles, but it has been shown that the cells lining the Fallopian tubes all lie towards the uterus; and their action also in the same direction.
Of course, I'm sure the idea is that the mind of the woman would have no influence over theaternity, as they are free agents, "running on their own hook." Besides, I can't imagine any influence whatsoever by which a woman could exert such a powerful influence over an act wholly within and from under the influence of the will. If such an influence existed, it is certainly a hidden and mysterious trinity of which we can form no just conceptions. How, if the act of foundation depended upon some sympathetic influence, not easily understood or conceived, there might be some ground for the belief that the "disguise" of the woman would
aent... some control over the uterus of a female. But it would be folly to hold her or attempt to propagate such a theory at the present day. Thus a portion of the semen with the ovum is necessary to ensure conception does not admit of doubt. It does not seem to be necessary for insurance purposes. That the semen should be deposited in the uterus, or even in the upper part of the vagina, as conception has occurred, and might accompany where the vagina was closed by a strong membranous wall suffused by a very minute opening, and through this orifice, the semen found its way into the uterus and conception was the result. Besides, the
as uteri may be sufficiently patulous
to receive the glans penis when
the woman is capable of conceiving.
The semen might then be deposited
in the uterus and come directly in
contact with the ovum in that organ.
But it may be asked how one
has gained a position in the uterus at
this time? It is now a well established
fact that ovum are not only cut
off during copulation, but during
menstruation, or from high sexual
excitement during the interval of
menstruation. Or they may even be
the result of copulation not having
been inaugurated at the time
of their expulsion. This latter would
seem more probable from the fact
that menstruation is not always the
issues of Copulation, though both parties engaged in intercourse to the highest degree, and furnished all the requisites for fertilisation. These are all the same, whether issues of copulation or of spontaneous ovulation; and they all retain capability of being impregnated for several days after their expulsion from the vesicle. Both semen and ovum being present in the uterus, the action of the mind of the woman could exert no control over them; both being foreign to and having no connection with her system, simply lying on the mucous membrane of the womb. But admitting that the “disgust” would exert any influence whatever for a time, it might remain in
the vagina, until the excitement had subsided away, and thus by the
stimulus of its presence, confuse the
vagina and uterus in a sort upon it.
This is certainly possible, as all agree
that a sensation may be conveyed to
the brain and reflected without the
mind that it is conscious of it.
Dr. Ogden says a woman may
conceive, when she can abate the
act of coition, though to be with her husband.
Carpenter considers conception entirely
organic as all others do. He says that
the function of the female during coitus
is essentially prolific. When the sexual
feeling are strongly excited, there is
considerable tingling, and an in-
creased secretion from various glandular
follicles. But these changes, are by no
necessity for effective coition, since it is a fact—well established, that fruitful intercourse may take place when the female is in a state of menstruation, lactation, or pregnancy.

It has been supposed by some, that this uterine dilatation by a kind of reflex action to relieve the pressure of fluid there is no proof. The introduction of a small quantity of semen, just within the vagina, seems to be all that is absolutely necessary for conception. This seems to me to be sufficient to put "disgust" of all the union it proposes for nature.

Taylor, in his jurisprudence, says that such a thing may occur and thinks it unnecessary to argue such a well-established fact.
Boehl treats it equally briefly, thinking it unnecessary to argue a theory so universally discredited. It may be said that ova do not possess capability of being impregnated after the lapse of the ovulating period. There is certainly no reason for such a conclusion. Carpenter says, “It is no longer considered necessary for fecundation that the ovum should reach the ovariun; since this end may be answered by the contact of the two in the Fallopian tubes, or even in the uterus itself. This certainty process that ova do possess capability of being fertilized even in the uterus itself.” The assertion thus that the ovum loses its capability of being impregnated rests, says Carpenter, upon the fact that the sexual
desire was not so intense or did not exist at all, in some animals examined in which after death, it was found that the ovary had passed into the uterus or lower part of the Fallopian tubes. For he says from this that there is reason to believe that this is not the case in the human female; for, although the sexual desire may be strong just about the times of the menstruation and escape of ovaries; yet this is not by any means passing at other times. And the fact that in pregnancy occurs from a single ovum, in the middle of the interval between menstrual periods or for several days after its cessation,
is strong proof. The sound 
said with its susceptibility of 
improvement for several days 
at-hand, after its expulsion from 
the我想它 has proven very conclusively, I think. 
Thus, if facts and ideas may occur 
as the "fine results" or "dangerous 
are now prepared to examine 
the evidence in favor of the pos-
sibility of concepts to the results 
of such foundation. I wish 
again summarizely thus. This division 
is, I think, the most appropriate 
one I could have chosen to count 
the objections urged against the 
theory by Dr. Watson, who is I believe 
the chief mind of the opposition. Her 
consider foundation and concepts...
entirely separate and distinct acts and thus—premeditation to an
occasion without—resulting in consciousness. Although the authors consider
this the same, I think the distinction made by Dr. Watson altogether
reasonable and practical. While I consider conception the
result of a rape possible, I do not
and—think it—likely to occur. The
possibility of its occurrence
is altogether insufficient to establish
the fact should it occur again. That conception would be
as likely the source—from foundation
placing place in the ovary or
Fallopian tube the result of
it, as otherwise there is
no possible doubt. For whatever
may in the cause of the formation of the decidua, it would certainly be just as likely. The formation of the membrane, in this case, as in any other, the sound would also bring with it the coming of the uterus. The same living fetus are brought down in improper method, occurring at any other time. It would find its way into the womb just as readily in the one case as in the other. And after finding its way into the uterus, it would be just as apt to displace the membrane and attach itself in the old place of the organ. I can therefore discern no difference whatever.

The poles have all that constitutes
conceiving as perfectly performed in this, as in any other impregnation. There is no reason at all why it should not be so. But let us consider the impregnation occurring in the cavity of the uterus. There is here a different condition. When the ovum descends into the cavity of the womb, before its implantation there is no membrane formed ready to receive it on its exit from the Fallopian tube, and hence its further progress. Although it might once visit the uterus and be impregnated, it would not be likely to attach itself to the uterine surfaces from the fact that there would be no
Deflex mucous to support it in its position upon the surface of the uterus, until such connection could be established. Besides, were the decidua formed after the arrival of the ovum in the uterus, the porous relation would not exist. The ovum lying internally to the decidua, would not be formed. The formation of a deflex mucous membrane, the lining only a portion of the decidua pushed down by the descent of the ovum. It therefore appears more reasonable to suppose that the uncompacted ovum would float off through the vagina.
Granting the expressions of the theory of its possibility, the advantages of this agreement, and it does not prove that already advanced evidence. Because the conditions are different, the relations of the party mutually changed. I have I think proven and conclusively that conception may occur the result of a rapid bridge from preserving a single instance of the many that have occurred. little might be said, with no evidence contradicted, as we could until tell whether the woman agreed to the intercourse to meet the urge for the purpose of hiding her guilt or to obtain
money. And as it would be a difficult matter to recover, I had thought it proper to present silence as evidence, rather than the complaints of an interested woman. But the present arises when I consider sufficient proof on a mucor. It appears proven beyond doubt that one are discharged on that Graafian follicles mature. That spermatozoa are capable of independent action, and might by their own movements reach the Fallopian tubes. Thus there is very little reason to suppose that the vaginae and uteri would not act in concert with them.
and thus facilitate their progress. Thus, the imprisoned women would denote, and adhere to the Melting ware as readily as at any other time. This is I think, proof enough of its possibility. Carpenter remarks, at speaking of the spermatopy:

"Thus, among the tribes whose soil are fertilized out of the body, the power of movement inherent in spermatopy, is obviously the means, by which they are brought into contact with the wind, and it does not seem unreasonable to suppose, that the same is the case in regard to higher classes; and thus, the transit of these curious particles from the vagina..."
towards the sciences, is affected by the same kind of action, as that which causes them to traverse the field of the microscope. There are thousands of women who, considering the inconvenience of child-bearing, would gladly prevent it, were it in their power to do so. But goaded on by a powerful and almost irresistible desire to do for others, they would lend others to do what they themselves could not do. Thus they relapse to the scenes of their former upward striving; lost in the scenes of their former up-reaching delight, and sunk-suffering the penalty, imposed by the iron laws of nature, which is beyond the power of their minds to avoid. Dec 13th, 1868.

G. Girard Bidwell