AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
The
Anatomo-Physiological, Peculiarities of Woman.
SUBMITTED TO THE
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To

The eminent Physician,
Professor of Obstetrics, and
Diseases of women and children,
in the Nashville Medical College,
J. M. Watson M.D.

This is respectfully inscribed.
Anatomical, Physiological Peculiarities of Woman.

What is anatomically and physiologically speaking, peculiar to woman? Of her who forms society, and brings happiness to the family circle, weaving wreaths of honor for our heroes, exulting in their success, and in their misfortunes, not only sharing equally with them, but with bright and joyful anticipations, of the future being more brilliant, arouses their drooping energies to renewed action, and it is truly said, 'The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.'
First let us notice the anatomical peculiarities of woman in relation to man. These are not so numerous and great to the anatomist and physiologist who philosophically studies the relationship existing between the two sexes, as appears to the mere pretender, and such.

The principal peculiarities of which I shall speak are, first, her external appearances. Second, organs of generation. Third, mammary. Fourth, osseous system. Fifth, peritoneum. Of the first, or external appearances, we notice her form is different from that of man, she is more plump, being chiefly to the super-abundance of adipose tissue, filling up as it were, the
Depression, that would otherwise
look rough and masculine. The whole
structure of woman is of a fine texture
more flexible and soft. She differs from
man in not having her delicate face
covered with beard, but her long
and glossy hair grows more luxuriant.
Her chest is not as full as man's, but
the mamæ supply the deficiency.
We do not see in her, that prominent
developed muscle, nor those large and
full veins, her whole structure seems
well adapted, to her grace, and beauty,
of form.
Second of the Organs of generation, we
do not think it necessary to go into
the minute anatomy of these organs
but will notice the similarity of some
of these, to those of man, the greatest
of these is the clitoris, which is said to be a rudiment of a penis, from the fact of its shape and erectile powers, which are more susceptible in a state of venereal excitement. The urethra is shorter and not so much curved as in the male, she is therefore not so liable to deposit in the bladder as the male. It is contended by some that there is also a rudiment of the Prostate gland, but the office of it is entirely different from that in man. And some Physicists carry the analogy farther, and compare the ovary with the testicle, but this I think rather absurd, for the stroma by a peculiar power, is capable of generating a foetus, and there is no power in man equal to this task, therefore,
"Stroma is sex?" Third. The Mammas. These are two glandular organs that are situated on the anterior of the thorax, their functions are to secrete milk for the nourishment of the young after fetal life. There exists between these organs and the uteruses and ovaries a peculiar sympathy, so that by exciting them, the uteruses become engorged, and the ovaries excited. These organs, the mammas are said to be peculiarly affected during lactation by the disposition. I have noticed brothers, that seem to care but little for their children, and they gave but little nourishment for them. In man these glands are mere rudiments, and are not
for secretion, but we have instances on record of their being excited to secretion and even to the nourishment of infants. Third, Osseous System. The most important of these, is the pelvis, which is not so long, and is broader and more expanded, the crest of the ilium does not curve in, as it does in man, but is strait and causes the concavity of the ventre to be more shallow. The arch of angle to formed by the descending ramus of the osa pubis is greater in woman making the inferior strait larger. The os coccyx in parturient women is also movable, so as to make the antero-posterior diameter of the inferior strait longer. The os femoris articulates more at right
angles with the pelvis, and the neck of the bone is more at right angles with the shaft, causing her to rock or waddle in walking, and makes her less able to bear burdens. The clavicle is not so crooked in woman as in man. Fifth Peritonium, the reflections of which are different from that in man, for it passes over the uterus after leaving the rectum, and forms the broad ligaments, and being a serous sack, there is a peculiarity in it here, opening into the uterus through the fallopian tubes, and here again we have a peculiarity, a serous membrane being continuous and contiguous with a mucous membrane; from this fact woman
is more liable to Peritonitis. Having noticed the most prominent peculiarities in the anatomy of woman, we turn to the second part of the subject.

The Physiological Peculiarities.

Which I will take up as follows. First, Catamenia. Second, Pubis. Third, Respiration. Fourth, Vitality. Fifth, Her mental capacity, as compared to that of man. The first Catamenia, the great Physiological function which has for some time engaged the greatest minds of the Medical Profession, and we may say, has not as yet been settled satisfactorily as to the great cause, and the nature, whether it be a secretion as Semmiah, the best Physiologist of the present, says it is a secretion, and the
most scientific obstetricians saying
most reasonably that it is a hemorrhage. 
Some maintain that the cause
is a maturation of a Graafian vesicle,
and escape of an Ova every twenty
eight days; but here are others in
direct opposition, and saying that
the maturation of a Graafian vesicle
and escape of an Ova is an effect,
and not a cause, that an Ova
may escape between the periods of
menstruation. I think the above cause
is the most popular theory at present,
but of this I did not intend to speak.
Therefore laying aside theories, I
will go to matter of fact, and in
common language, what I mean by
Catamenia, is a flow of a certain
amount of blood, necessary to the
health and well being of the woman, every twenty eight days. I say blood, for it will if caught or pressed directly from the os uteri, coagulate, and contains according to some, the red corpuscles. This discharge is generally suppressed during pregnancy. When it occurs during pregnancy I should look upon it as abnormal, that is in majority of cases, it is a function that in the non-impregnated woman must occur regularly, or loss of health will be apt to follow. This discharge commences generally from the age of fourteen to twenty, in the south it commences earlier than it does north, and in cities, and in girls that are thrown in company with
from those in the country, as those
are secluded from society, it is
also owing in great measure to the
general health and mode of living.
It is of little importance whether
this discharge be very copious or not,
as regards her health, all that is nece-
sary is for her to discharge according
to her habits and wants of her system,
not that she must discharge from two
to sixteen ounces, for this varies in
different women according to their
constitution; the period of menstruation
varies from two to seven days.
It continues periodically until the
age of forty or fifty and in some
even to sixty, during which time
she is susceptible of impregnation
after this period she is not, woman
is more liable to disease at the time of final cessation than any other time. Some of the organs are apt to be engorged, and if it is the uterus there is apt to be it up some disease, sometimes the mammae are irritated and become sore, it generally ceases gradually. Second, pulse. Of this we have but little to say, we find it varying from that of man from four to fourteen, and decreasing to sixty, in proportion to that of man. Third, respiration, this is different from that of man from the fact of the inferior portion of the thorax being movable, and hence her respiration is termed 'inferior lotal'. Beyond eight years of age, the exhalation is greater in
the male than in the female, but the same proportionate increase takes place in the female as it does in the male up to the age of puberty; at that time as during menstruation, quantity ceases to increase and is stationary, but when the catamenia ceases finally, the exhalation of carbonic acid again begins to increase for a time, and then decreases pari passu with the advance of years. If from any cause menstruation is checked, the exhalation of carbonic acid will increase the same as it would at the final cessation. The exhalation increases as pregnancy advances, hence this great function, catamenia, must be regulated.
Fourth, Viability. Woman from some cause does not live by sight as ten years as long as man. I ask what is that cause? It is not that it is so ordered by nature, we see every day. The cause it exists all around us, it is the false notion, from pride, that they have constitutions, which are in capable of being injured by the various in fluences which they bring to bear upon them. They do not drop to enjoy good health as they once did. Fifth, Mental capacity as compared to that of man, and in this I will speak of the moral nature, in comparison of the mental capacity of the two sexes, with a few exceptions that occur now and then.
the capacity of man for sustaining mental exertion far exceeds that of woman, yet her perception is more acute, and her views peculiarly distinguished for clearness, and decision; but they are generally deficient in that comprehensive which is necessary for their stability. The faculties of administration are not bestowed upon her she was not intended to rule, "for where she reigns man rules." Would we suppose that she whom we consider the produce of a race, whose future is at the heath stone, could so cultivate the tender soil of her intellect, as to produce the thoughts of a Socrates? Do we look to her to guide the ship?
across the trackless deep? No!

"Home is her place, except when like the star of day, she deigns to issue forth to the world, to exhibit her beauty and grace, or to scatter her smiles upon all, that are worthy to receive so rich a boon, and then she goes back to her home, like as the sun sinks in the west, and the memory of her presence, is like the sunlight, that lingers long behind a bright departed day."

Morally she excels man: she is naturally religious, she has a pious mind, thus she is enabled to bear misfortunes, and resign peacefully and gracefully to her fate, though she feels as much pain and sorrow at their occurrence.
as many, as who, are in to desperation
as vice, she is ever ready to interpret another's thoughts and this
making her a patient kind and sympathizing being. And,
“when pain and anguish, are in the bow
A ministering angel there?”
Her whole character is beautifully adapted to supply, the deficiency
in man, and to elevate and refine those feelings that
might otherwise be directed
to low and selfish objects.