

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON
The
Anatomico, Physiological, Peculiarities of Woman.

SUBMITTED TO THE
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AND MEDICAL FACULTY
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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.

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Anatomico,
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's being more brilliant, arouses their drooping energies to renewed action, and it is truly said, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."²⁰

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 Quack.

The principle peculiarities of which I shall speak are, First Her external appearances, Second, Organs of generation. Third, Mammæ, 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, owing 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 finer texture more flexible & soft. She differs from man in not have 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 mammae 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

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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 perceptible 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 Physiologists 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 Galk, and there is no power in man equal to this task, therefore,

(Stroma is Sex?) Third The Mammal.
 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 foetal life,
 There exists between these organs
 and the uterus and ovaries a
 peculiar sympathy, so that by
 irritating them the uterus, becomes
 engorged, and the ovaries, excited.
 These organs the mammal are said
 to be peculiarly affected during
 lactation by the disposition,
 I have noticed Mothers, 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

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for secretion, but we have instances
on record of their being excited to
secretion and even to the nourishment
of infants. Fourth, 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 straight and
causes the concavity of the venter
to be more shallow. The arch or
angle formed by the descending ramus
of the ossa pubes 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

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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 leg able to bear burthens, The clavicle is not so crooked in woman as in man, Fifth

Peritoneum, 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 in to 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

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is more liable to Peritonitis. Having
noticed the most prominent peculiarities
in the anatomy of woman, we pass
to the second part of the subject.
The Physiological Peculiarities.

Which I will take up as follows. First,
Catamenia, Second, Pulse, Third,
Respiration, Fourth Viability, 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 or Hemorrhage,
the best Physiologist of the present,
saying it is a secretion, and the

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most scientific Obstetricians saying
most reasonably that it is a hemorrhage,
some maintain that the cause
is a maturation of a Graaffian vesicle,
and escape of an Ova every twenty
eight days, but here are others in
direct opposition, and saying that
the maturation of a Graaffian 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 matters 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 procured
 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 earlier

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than those in the country, as that
are secluded from society, it is
also owing in a 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 nec-
-essary 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 be the uterus there is apt to be set 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 ten 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 superior portion of the thorax being immovable, and hence her respiration is termed "Superior costal". 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 or 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 exha-
 =lation of carbonic acid, will increase
 the same as it would at the
 final cessation, the exhalation
 increases in pregnancy as it
 advances, Hence this great function,
 catamenia, must be regulated.

Fourth, Viability. Woman from some cause does not live by eight or 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 capable of being injured by the various influences which they bring to bear upon them, they do not drop to enjoy good health and therefore don't.

Fifth, Mental Capacity as compared to that of man, and in this I will speak of her 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 comprehensiveness
 which is necessary for their stability.
 The faculties of administrations
 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 producer of a race,
 whose place is at the hearth stone,
 could so cultivate the tender soil
 of her intellect, as to produce
 the thoughts of a Hippocrates?
 Do we look to her to guide the ship

accraps 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, an 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 exceeds man she is naturally religious, she has a pious mind, Thus she is unable to bear misfortunes, and resign peacefully and gracefully to her fate, though she feels as much pain and sorrow at their occurrence

as man, who runs in to disapation
 an vice, She is ever ready to in=
 =terpret another's thoughts and this
 making her a patient kind and
 sympathizing being, And,

When pain and anguish wring the brow
 A ministering angel thou!"¹³

Her whole character is beautifu=
 lly adapted to supply the deficiency
 in man, and to elevate and
 refine those feelings that
 might otherwise be directed
 To low and selfish objects.