

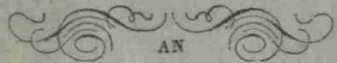
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AN

# INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

*Metritis*

SUBMITTED TO THE

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY

OF THE

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BY

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In considering the pathology of the diseases of the female organs of generation I am necessarily led to the conclusion that many diseases of the female organs of generation described by authors are symptoms of diseases and ought to be erased from the catalogue of diseases belonging to the female organs of generation as being diseases independant of inflammation of the Uterus and its appendages which is the true character of the disease. These names seem to be the source from which so much confusion arises among the Medical Profession as to diseases and their proper treatment. The true pathology of these diseases have been held in obscurity and remain so until present. The Pathology is not well expressed upon by the Profession in general hence the diversity of <sup>the</sup> treatment by Practitioners which will remain

so until the true Pathology of  
these diseases are brought to light  
then and not until then will  
the treatment be successfully  
carried on and that according to  
Science which will consist in ~~strit-~~  
~~ing~~ directing our remedial agents  
to the cause and not to the effect as  
a great many do the Empirical  
practice of prescribing remedies for  
Symptoms or names of diseases in  
place of the disease proper. If we  
understand the Pathology as it is our  
duty to do we may prescribe reme-  
dies that will prove successful  
in exterminating the disease - and  
when we do this we have done a  
great deal and withal much good  
The motto with every one that  
intend to practice the healing art  
should be to keep in mind that  
when the cause of a disease is  
removed the symptoms will be  
removed also but on the other hand

If the cause is not removed the symptoms will remain and our practice unsuccessful - Amenorrhoea Dysmenorrhoea Menorrhagia Leucorrhoea Chlorosis and Hystericalgia or Irritable Uterus these taken in a mass may be called the black list and are symptoms rather than so many distinct diseases and are indicative of an inflammatory condition of the uterus or some of its Appendages these names and symptoms of diseases are treated of by authors as being distinct and separate diseases of the female organs of generation having different causes and different symptoms peculiar to each disease - The symptoms that characterize the various diseases of the uterus may be represented by the word Metritis either in the acute or chronic form whether Idiopathic or Symptomatic Autopsia proves clearly to my mind

the effects of inflammation of the uterus or some of its appendages in all of these diseases there is a change in the functions of the womb and also its fibres and an altered secretion in quantity and color. The inflammation may cease in a degree and still the sympathetic disturbance may go on until it locates itself permanently on some remote organ of the system - viz - the Brain, Lungs or Stomach. constituting cerebritis Tuberculosis or Gastritis it is possible for all of those diseases to have their origin by sympathizing with the uterus the remote organs of the body that I have mentioned are sympathetically affected in Metritis like they are in all the so called diseases that I have mentioned belonging to the female organs of

generation. from these considerations  
I prefer the term Metritis which  
seems to me to be the true Pathological  
condition of the Womb. Admitting  
all of the aforesaid Diseases of the  
uterus as symptomatic of inflam-  
mation of the Womb Metritis is  
presented in two forms the  
Acute and Chronic. in order to  
understand the Diseases of the  
organs of generation in the fem-  
ale we ought to be familiar  
with the pelvic organs and their  
Anatomy also the relations they  
bear to each other. The uterus  
itself like other organs of the  
Animal economy may be sympat-  
hetically affected by Diseases of the  
neighbouring organs and also  
secondarily may sympathise with  
some remote organ of the body  
and cause an oversight of the actual  
seat of the disease. Metritis pres-  
ents itself in various aspects

According to the structure affected and the part of the uterus that is diseased and the extent of the inflammation. Simple acute Metritis is uncommon. Metritis occurs most frequent after delivery, or is connected with some other disease for instance Peritonitis Vaginitis and Ovaritis all of these may in conjunction with Metritis either in the acute or chronic form the characteristic symptoms of Metritis are pain swelling and tenderness about the hypogastric region with heat pain and swelling of the neck of the womb. Small and frequent pulse vomiting. Cephalalgia and delirium. Acute Metritis is frequently succeeded by the chronic form leaving the uterus indurated, and perhaps ulcerated, and if so when the ulcers heal they leave a firm cicatrix

where they existed which keeps up  
a low grade of inflammation or  
irritation and is a frequent  
source of abortion by its fibres  
not yielding to the growth of  
the womb. Chronic Metritis  
is a disease more frequently met  
with in practice than any  
other disease especially among  
the female sex. It is most  
generally preceded by the acute  
form but not always. It may  
exist without ever assuming  
the acute form or stage  
Chronic Metritis is productive of  
all the various symptoms of the  
many diseases of the female organs  
of generation or the suppressed  
diseases as I mentioned before  
If the neck of the uterus ~~or the~~  
and the mucous membrane  
lining the cavity of the uterus  
be inflamed we have, Dysmenorr-  
hoea or painful menstruation



with or more symptoms of acute Metritis in connection with some disease or sympathetic disturbance of functions of some other organ with the functions of the uterus entirely changed either hemorrhage or dryness of the parts or the Mucus membrane may secrete abundance of mucus from the womb or from the vagina constituting Leucorrhoea If the neck of the uterus be inflamed it is termed Dysmenorrhoea with inflammatory symptoms pain in the back and Hypogastric region pain heat and swelling of the cervix uteri and the Sympthetical affections that are common in the disease. There is no symptom in all the diseases that I have mentioned that seems to me to be independant of inflammation of some of the organs of generation

The causes of Metritis are various depending upon the constitution age and conditions of the individual. The womb is not so much disposed to disease in early life as it is in advanced life females are exempt from diseases of the uterus until they arrive at the age of puberty or the catamenial epoch. Then they become fit subjects for this disease or diseases and continue so until the time for the menses to cease. There are times between these two epochs of life that I may venture to say they are exempt also that is when they are pregnant between ~~the~~ sixteen and forty five years of age is the time when women are more liable to diseases of the organs of generation than any other period of life. in this climate in warmer climates it is very different. the time for menstruation commences earlier and ceases earlier Chronic Metritis may exist for some length of time without any alarming

symptoms of a speedy dissolution,  
Irritation of the uterus is said to  
exist independent of inflammation. I  
cannot see any difference between them  
only that irritation is expressive of the  
first grade of inflammation and  
inflammation expresses all of the  
different grades. If there is no  
irritation there will be no inflammat-  
ion and irritation must precede  
inflammation. Inflammation does  
not present the same appearance  
in all portions of the body for  
instance where red blood does not  
circulate through. The tendons when  
they are inflamed ~~do~~ not present  
the same appearance as the muscular  
tissue in the tendons the redness  
is not so perceptible nor is the  
swelling so great. Yet the pain is  
as great or greater than it is in the  
inflammation of the soft parts.

Congestion seem to me to depend  
upon inflammation if it does not

Depend upon inflammation it must  
depend upon mechanical obstruction  
of the return of the blood to the heart  
Inflammation or mechanical obstruction  
of the blood must be the cause of  
Congestion wherever there is irritation  
there will be a flow of blood more  
than where there is no irritation, but  
where ~~ever~~ there is a mechanical  
obstruction of the circulation there  
will be an accumulation of blood in  
the part without inflammation, but  
if the obstruction be allowed to rem-  
ain for a considerable time inflammation  
will be the consequence. If Congest-  
ion occurs under any other cir-  
cumstance than mechanical obstruction  
it seems to me it must depend  
upon Inflammation. When stimulants  
are administered in small doses the  
effects are general throughout the  
system, but when taken in large do-  
ses the effect is different, it is apt to  
concentrate its force upon some

particular organ and congestion  
is the consequence if the brain  
happens to be the organ of concen-  
tration. It becomes congested and  
if not relieved inflammation is the  
result the stimulant then evident-  
ly irritates the organ and causes a  
flow of blood to the irritated point  
when congestion of the uterus  
takes place it is certain in my  
mind to have been caused by  
irritation. Metritis is the cause of  
all the displacements of the uterus  
and morbid growths of the same and  
the vagina. The diseases of the Ovaries  
and Fallopian tubes are attributable  
to the same, all of which contribute  
to the source of Sterility and Abortions

Treatment of Acute Metritis does  
not require any treatment more  
than Acute inflammation of any  
other organ. The treatment will  
depend upon the constitution of

The patient also whether the disease be simple or complicated if the patient be laboring under simple Acute Metritis with high fever and Plethoric Venesection must resorted to freely so as to make a decided impression upon the system the bowels should be operated upon by mild purgatives. The local treatment should consist in Leeching and cupping, warm fomentations in addition to these a stream of water properly applied is preferable to any other local treatment with one if properly applied the temperature of the water should be about 98 so that no unpleasant effect will be produced. the water should be allowed to fall some 10 or 12 inches upon the most inflamed point. the stream should not exceed a quarter of an inch in diameter and be continued for some considerable time being governed by the pulse and

feelings of the patient as a general  
rule from a half to one hour. This  
can be effected by but little trouble  
to the attendant. A Syphon is the  
proper thing to accomplish this  
end by having suitable vessels to  
contain and receive the water. Warm  
water has more effect when in motion  
than it does when at rest. The treat-  
ment of chronic Metritis demands  
especially our attention than the  
acute form. Warm water may be  
applied to the mouth of the womb  
by a gum elastic tube introduced  
into the Vagina which is better than  
applying it externally. The treatment  
of chronic Metritis is not so well  
indicated as in the acute the patient  
is often in an anemic condition  
if so depletion cannot be had  
recourse to us in the other form  
or one who is plethoric. The  
internal remedies may consist of  
Calomel and Rhubarb or calomel

and does in combinations in  
sufficient quantities to keep the  
bowels in a soluble condition  
If the menses are obstructed the  
Volatile Spiriture of guaiac may be  
given in anticipation of the men-  
strual period. commencing four  
or five days before the anticipated  
time for <sup>the</sup> return in doses a tea  
Spoonfull three times per day one  
taken before each meal - when  
there is congestion of the womb  
Leeching and searification may be  
had recourse to applied direct-  
ly to the cervix uteri with beneficial  
effects If the neck of the uterus  
be ulcerated the ulcers ought to  
be touched with a stick of caustic  
in preference to a solution of the  
same If the inner membrane  
only be inflamed the solution  
perhaps will be better making  
the solution in strength propor-  
tionate to the stage of the disease



If any other organs be affected  
you pay attention to that also, and  
relieve if possible. If the patient  
be anæmic general depletion  
cannot be had recourse to with  
safety. but we have to treat the  
case locally by Leeches cups  
poultices and warm fomentations  
at the same time using caustic  
solutions. bathe the feet in warm  
water. at night but perhaps  
the hip bath would answer  
a better purpose. and use  
the cold wash in the morning  
the carbonates or the iodides  
of Iron should be used comb-  
ined with Ales. If any other  
disease should exist at the  
same time other remedies  
should be prescribed that are  
appropriate to relieve them  
Gathered pustules upon the  
Spine kept up for a considerable  
time is beneficial in Chronic

Metritis in ~~Flagrant~~ Phlegma-  
tia dolens after proper treat-  
~~ment~~ Depletion great good may  
be derived by the use of the  
warm Steam of water upon  
the seat of disease or the most  
inflammatory point as long as  
the patient can bear it with-  
out inconvenience