

**LEUCORRHOEA AND OTHER VARIETIES
OF GYNAECOLOGICAL CATARRH. A
TREATISE ON THE
CATARRHAL AFFECTIONS OF THE
GENITAL CANAL OF WOMEN; THEIR
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL TREATMENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649489176

Leucorrhoea and Other Varieties of Gynaecological Catarrh. A Treatise on the Catarrhal Affections of the Genital Canal of Women; Their Medical and Surgical Treatment by Homer Irvin Ostrom

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HOMER IRVIN OSTROM

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SURGICAL TREATMENT.

BY

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.:
BOERICKE & TAFEL
1910

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PREFACE.

MANY of the minor diseases peculiar to women are associated with disorders of the mucous membrane that lines the genital canal, but we are rather inclined to disregard these affections in favor of operative gynæcology, and for the development of surgical technique. This class of disease, however, merits careful consideration, not only because of its primary importance, but on account of its significance as an etiological factor in more serious maladies.

The commonly used term, leucorrhœa, signifies only one form of catarrh—a milky, white flow—and is, therefore, not comprehensive enough to embrace every variety of mucous discharge, while catarrh, used in the same sense as when applied to other mucous membranes, conveys a more accurate understanding of the pathology and clinical history of the gynæcic mucous membrane disease.

Specific catarrh is not included, for the reason that it constitutes a special class of disease, that requires special treatment.

The classification of gynæcological catarrh here adopted is based upon the character of the discharge. Such a grouping is not entirely satisfactory, but the anatomical divisions of the genital canal, which in health are clearly defined, become blurred in disease, and in consequence cannot be relied upon for classification; and, moreover, no form of gynæcological catarrh belongs to any one period of life, and, therefore, the clinical history alone cannot be relied upon for this purpose.

Part IV., dealing with Therapeutic Suggestions, includes a repertory, and is, as its name implies, merely suggestive. No attempt is made to record more than the actual symptoms of catarrh, with a few concomitants and generalizations. Because of the lack of exactness in recording symptoms, it has in some instances been found difficult to distinguish catarrh from the discharge of a malignant disease, or neoplasm, but such conditions have been eliminated as much as possible.

*130 West 57th Street,
New York City.*

November, 1910.

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LEUCORRHOEA.

CHAPTER I.

ANATOMY OF THE GENITAL CANAL—PHYSIOLOGY OF THE PARTS ESPECIALLY INVOLVED IN CATARRH—FUNCTION OF THE MUCOUS MEMBRANE.

The genital canal, the part immediately involved in gynæcological catarrh, is in the form of two opposing angles, the vertical line of union extending from the vulva to the fundus of the uterus, the horizontal lines to the fimbriated openings of the Fallopian tubes. These passages are lined throughout with mucous membrane, the epithelium and construction of which are variously modified to meet physiological uses.

The anatomical divisions of the canal, with which gynæcological catarrh is concerned, are, from without inwards, the vulva, the vagina, the portio-vaginalis, the os uteri, the cervix uteri, and the Fallopian tubes.