

**A CLINICAL HAND-
BOOK ON THE
DISEASES OF WOMEN**

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A Clinical Hand-Book on the Diseases of Women by W. Symington Brown

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BY

W. SYMINGTON BROWN, M.D.

*Member of the Gynecological Society of Boston, Fellow of the Mass. Medical
Society, etc.*

"THE HIGHEST AIM OF OUR ART MUST BE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GENERALIZATION OF DIS-
EASES, AND THE GREATEST POSSIBLE INDIVIDUALIZATION OF OUR PATIENTS."

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PREFACE.

THIS little book does not claim to be a treatise. Many of the more recondite aspects of disease are purposely omitted. It is intended as a practical guide on most of the diseases peculiar to women, for the use of medical students and country practitioners. An effort has been made to concentrate the best that has been written on each subject, including the old masters, whose works the present generation are too much disposed to underrate. Most of the illustrative cases are taken from the author's note-books; the rest are duly credited.

Puerperal diseases are included, or, more correctly, those which precede, accompany, or follow the puerperal state. The great bulk of female diseases are in some way connected with conception; many of them follow abortion or even confinement at term. In these two chapters the author is specially indebted to the masterly work of DR. FORDYCE BARKER.

A similar excuse may be urged for inserting chapters on gonorrhœa and syphilis. The work would not be complete without them. Those who wish to pursue these subjects farther will find many interesting details in Ziemssen's *Cyclopædia*, Vol. III., and in "Surgical Diseases of the Genito-Urinary Organs," by DRs. VAN BUREN and KEYES.

It may not be superfluous to point out that the author has endeavored, as far as possible, to group the different topics under a fourfold arrangement. Thus, the allied diseases, their varieties, symptoms, and remedies, are generally ar-

53919

ranged in groups of four, or some multiple of two. This with a view to aid the memory.

In our treatment of diseases of women we do not take mental phenomena sufficiently into account. Many patients are mentally diseased who would scarcely be proper inmates of a lunatic asylum. Long-continued pain reacts upon the mind, and finally upsets it. We meet with cases in which credulity is carried to an extent scarcely compatible with sanity. Hence an additional reason for early attention to female complaints. Replacing a dislocated ovary, or repairing a lacerated cervix, may also save a mind from wreck.

The author acknowledges his special indebtedness to the works of T. SPENCER WELLS, F.R.C.S., and DRS. SIMS, EMMET, THOMAS, and SKENE. DR. GOODELL has recently directed attention to what may be called preventive hygiene for women. It is a great pity that public conveniences for ladies are so scarce in large cities. Even in country towns there is ample room for improvement. Much suffering and disease might be prevented by arranging water-closets and latrines in such a way that the natural modesty of the sex would not be outraged in using them. Dry-earth closets, in the country, fulfil every requirement; but their use at present is very limited.

I would also respectfully suggest that it is a part of the physician's duty to prevent disease, when he can, by timely hints to young people recently married about the hygiene of reproduction.

For the article on Clitoridectomy, in Chapter XXIII., I am indebted to my friend, Dr. HENRY O. MARCY, Boston.

A large portion of the woodcuts (instruments) have been kindly furnished by Messrs. Codman & Shurtleff, Boston, who can supply the originals.

STONEHAM, MASS., JANUARY, 1882.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
ILLUSTRATIONS	ix
WORKS CONSULTED	xi
DICTIONARY	xv
CHAPTER I.	
ANATOMY OF THE GENITAL ORGANS	17
The female bladder, 18; urethra, 19; vagina, 21; uterus, 22; ovaries, 27; Fallopian tubes, 29; hymen, 29; clitoris, 30; mammary glands, 30.	
CHAPTER II.	
INSTRUMENTS, AND HOW TO USE THEM	32
Mode of examination, 33; insertion of speculum, 35; cleansing the parts, 37; application of remedies, 39; remedies applied by the patient, 40.	
CHAPTER III.	
VULVITIS, ETC	42
Vulvitis, 42; vaginitis, 43; pruritus vulvæ, 44; leucorrhœa, 45.	
CHAPTER IV.	
VAGINISMUS, ETC	49
Vaginismus, 49; dyspareunia, 50; masturbation, 51; atresia vaginae, 53.	
CHAPTER V.	
AMENORRHŒA, ETC	58
Amenorrhœa, 58; dysmenorrhœa, neuralgic, 62; dysmenorrhœa, inflammatory, 63; dysmenorrhœa, obstructive, 64; dysmenorrhœa, membranous, 65; menorrhagia, 66; metrorrhagia, 68.	

	PAGE
CHAPTER VI.	
INFLAMMATION AND LACERATION OF CERVIX UTERI.....	70
CHAPTER VII.	
METRITIS, ENDOMETRITIS.....	75
Metritis, 75; endometritis, 79.	
CHAPTER VIII.	
PELVIC PERITONITIS AND CELLULITIS.....	85
Pelvic peritonitis, 85; pelvic cellulitis, 86.	
CHAPTER IX.	
PELVIC ABSCESS, ETC.....	88
Pelvic abscess, 88; pelvic hæmatocele, 90; septicæmia, 92; pyæmia, 93.	
CHAPTER X.	
RETROVERSION, ETC.....	95
Retroversion, 95; retroflexion, 98; anteversion, 99; ante flexion, 101.	
CHAPTER XI.	
PROLAPSUS UTRERI, ETC.....	103
Prolapsus uteri, 103; procidentia, 104; elongation of cervix, 105; inversion, 109.	
CHAPTER XII.	
UTERINE TUMORS.....	114
Subserous fibroids, 114; submucous fibroids, 114; interstitial fibroids, 114; polypi, 115.	
CHAPTER XIII.	
OVARIAN TUMORS.....	124
History, 124; pathology, 125; diagnosis, 126; ovariectomy, 131.	
CHAPTER XIV.	
VAGINAL OVARIOTOMY, ETC.....	141
Vaginal ovariectomy, 141; Battey's operation, 143.	

CONTENTS.

vii

CHAPTER XV.

	PAGE
PUERPERAL DISEASES.....	145
Puerperal fever, 145; convulsions, 147; insanity, 150; mastitis, 151; mastodynia, 152; chapped nipples, 153; agalactia, 154; galactor- rhœa, 155; phlegmasia dolens, 156; subinvolution, 157.	

CHAPTER XVI.

PUERPERAL DISEASES (<i>Continued</i>).....	160
Abortion, 160; extra-uterine gestation, 163; mole pregnancy, 166; puerperal hemorrhage, 167; persistent vomiting, 168; ptyalism, 171; puerperal lacerations, 172; relaxation of pelvic joints, 174; coccyodynia, 175; thrombosis and embolism, 176.	

CHAPTER XVII.

VAGINAL FISTULÆ.....	178
Vesico-vaginal fistula, 178; entero-vaginal fistula, 181.	

CHAPTER XVIII.

DISEASES OF BLADDER AND URETHRA.....	184
Cystitis, 184; stone in the bladder, 189; urethritis, 190; urethral tu- mor, 191; urethral stricture, 192; urethral prolapsus, 194.	

CHAPTER XIX.

DISEASES OF THE RECTUM.....	196
Hemorrhoids, 196; anal fissure, 198; rectal polypus, 199; rectocele, 200.	

CHAPTER XX.

GONORRHOEA.....	202
Gonorrhœal rheumatism, 205.	

CHAPTER XXI.

SYPHILIS.....	206
Chancre, 206; chancre, 208; constitutional syphilis, 210; secondary syphilis, 210; tertiary syphilis, 213; hereditary syphilis, 215.	

CHAPTER XXII.		PAGE
CANCER		218
Cancer of the uterus, 219; epithelioma of the cervix, 221; cancer of the ovary, 222; cancer of the vagina, 222; cancer of the breast, 224.		
CHAPTER XXIII.		
CHLOROSIS, ETC.		227
Chlorosis, 227; neurasthenia, 228; ovaritis, 229; clitoridectomy, 231.		
CHAPTER XXIV.		
STERILITY, HYSTERIA		234
Sterility, 234; hysteria, 236.		
INDEX		239