

C. B. Sullivan reply to Burke
He has come to help find with this (profession) and lives
conscience some time later.
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Should be the focus of
many more chapters

THE AMERICAN WOMAN'S HEALTH

According to the observations and statements of physicians, the tendency to nervous prostration among American women is on the increase. Where there was formerly one case of neuritis or neurasthenia, there seem to be a score, and gradually, but surely, a nervous tension is taking a firmer grip on the young girl at an earlier age than ever before. This increase is, too, in the face of the greater advance, on the part of the medical profession, to a better understanding of the nervous system, a greater number of nervous specialists, etc., etc.

In reading the medical papers as to the causes for this increase of woman's nervous condition it is, naturally, a case of "where doctors disagree." One contention is the so-called "broadening" of woman's activities with the resultant greater strain : another is the intemperate social diversions such as "bridge" : another is the greater cost of living and the increasing difficulties of housekeeping : another is the growing prosperity of the country and the evils which a larger circulation of money brings in its trail : while the increasing nervousness among young girls is laid in one instance to the evil effects of the kindergarten : to the larger number of girls going to college and its unwise curriculum of too many studies : to the larger number of working girls and the pressure of a business life, etc.

But one fact stands out prominently : Not a single man seems to see the situation clearly, and where he does his observations are confined

to discussions at medical conferences and published in medical journals which are never seen by the lay public.

It is because of the urgent need of saying an authoritative word on the subject, clear and sure, that The Ladies' Home Journal comes to Doctor Osler with the suggestion for an article, or a series of articles, as he may see the subject, which will discuss the subject frankly and simply directly with the American women. That the need for such a discussion is keen and urgent there is no doubt, and that The Ladies' Home Journal becomes the natural medium for such a discussion finds its best proof in its million and a quarter circulation.

We feel that Doctor Osler better than any other single man can, with any hope of achieving definite results, handle this subject at this time. He has the knowledge, the unquestioned standing, and, further, the singularly great advantage of having been absent long enough from the country to get a clear perspective. There is no question in Mr. Bok's mind but that the opportunity is presented for Doctor Osler to do, in this, an effective piece of work and at a moment which is very close to being the psychological one.

Mr. Bok is prepared to leave the treatment of the subject wholly in Doctor Osler's hands : as to his deductions : whether the matter can be treated in a single article or a series of articles, and their length. The material would be left, in short, for Doctor Osler to handle as he sees fit in an effective popular way.

Mr. Bok feels the subject to be of such urgent importance, the possibility of the good to be accomplished so great, and that Doctor Osler is preëminently the one man to do the work, that he is prepared to offer him, as an honorarium, one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for an article of 5000 words, or at the same rate of compensation should Doctor Osler see in the subject more than a single article.