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98 DISEASES FROM EXCESS AND MASTURBATION.

attributed the cause of epilepsy in young females to the same cause, and partially proved his theory by amputating the clitoris of each case coming under his care. The operation was remarkably successful, a large majority of his patients making a complete recovery after the operation. Some years ago I had an epileptic masturbator under treatment in Charity Hospital. He foiled every attempt made to prevent him from masturbating. The penis and scrotum were blistered, so that he could not touch them, but he still managed to complete the act by rubbing the perineum with his fingers. His hands were tied behind his back, but this also was unsuccessful, for the next day he was seen to slide down to the foot of the bed, and rub his perineum against the foot piece. He was finally tied hand and foot to the bed, so that he could not move a muscle. This plan of course could not be continued, and whenever he was released in order to change the bed clothes, or to perform some other necessary duty, his hands almost instantly sought the neighborhood of his genital organs. He was sent subsequently to an asylum as incurable.

Serrurier reports an interesting but equally painful case, viz., that of a soldier who was the subject of convulsions from sexual indulgence and masturbation. In the midst of his most violent paroxysms he endeavored to excite himself and produce an orgasm. This condition lasted six months, when death released him from his sufferings. Zimmerman speaks of a patient under his care who endured an epileptic convulsion whenever he masturbated, or had nocturnal pollutions. Every emission, irrespective of its cause, was invariably accompanied or followed by a convulsion. Esquirol mentions the case of a young woman of an ardent temperament who became epileptic three days after marriage. It was supposed by her

