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Joseph William Howe, [Photocopie]

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Références bibliographiques[Howe, Excessive Vener](#)

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94 DISEASES FROM EXCESS AND MASTURBATION.

An examination of the labia and vagina of the mother when it can be obtained without exciting her suspicions will often show the changes due to excessive friction and pulling, and establish the amount of responsibility that rests on her shoulders for the existence of the disease in the child. I have for many years made it a practice to get at the history of the parents of consumptive children and my examinations so invariably confirm my suspicions that I have now no doubt whatever of the direct relation between masturbation and hereditary phthisis. I know that others in active practice have examined and treated such cases and have been able also to trace the lung disease to its legitimate origin. But though consumption results from the transmitted weakness descending from parent to child, it is also developed directly in young men and women from long continued masturbation as well as from sexual excess. This fact was first brought prominently before my mind by an examination of fourteen young patients suffering from phthisis in Charity Hospital. Only two gave a positive history of hereditary predisposition to the disease. Ten of the number acknowledged that they had been addicted to onanism in their childhood and had practiced it for years. It was of course impossible to learn anything of the character or habits of the parents of these hospital patients, for they were not present to be examined, and it is possible that the tendency might be transmitted. Since that experience, however, I have repeatedly put the question to other sufferers and have accumulated convincing evidence on the point. I am repeating nothing new when I say that those whose nutrition is poor and below par are peculiarly liable to attacks of phthisis. One of the effects of excessive indulgence is a disarrangement, or, rather, an exhaustion of the nervous system or of the nervous force, from



