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Joseph William Howe, [Photocopie]

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Références bibliographiques[Howe, Excessive Venery](#)

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DISEASES FROM EXCESS AND MASTURBATION. 95

the successive shocks of the orgasm. Then follow indigestion, constipation, (which is only a result of indigestion) and lassitude, all tending to impoverish the blood, and the road is thus opened for the first bad cold to set up chronic inflammation in the lungs, or other forms of pulmonary consumption.

The erotic tendency of consumptives has been the subject of remark by many different authorities. It is mentioned as a peculiar phenomenon connected with or caused by the disease. The truth is, however, that the erotic tendencies antedate the phthisis. They are the direct result of excess, sexual or otherwise, and are not the result of the destructive processes at work on the lung. Phthisis is the legitimate effect of ignorant assaults on the genital organs, carried on through that part of the lifetime when the active forces should have been devoted to the protection and the development of the rapidly growing tissues. Gall relates the case of a consumptive who exhibited this tendency in its worst aspects. The patient was a married lady who had been the victim of untrammelled desires. She developed phthisis at thirty and the disease ran a rapid course towards a fatal termination. She nevertheless curtailed none of her sexual enjoyments. Indeed they seemed to grow with the disease, until they became her sole thought and care. A day or two before her death while lying in a moribund condition, unable to move and not able to speak above a whisper, with every mark of rapid dissolution about her, she importuned her husband to engage again in sexual congress with her. The case is a painful but not an uncommon one.

Professor James R. Leaming of this city thinks "that phthisis, especially of the fibroid variety, is induced by any cause which lowers the vitality of the life of the body, expressed in the ganglionic system of nerves, and in the blood. Over



