Reading excerpt

Leucorrhoea

of Homer Irvin Ostrom

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The genital canal, the part immediately involved in gynaecological catarrh, is in the form of two opposing angles, the vertical line of union extending from the vulva to the fundus of the uterus, the horizontal lines to the fimbriated openings of the Fallopian tubes. These passages are lined throughout with mucous membrane, the epithelium and construction of which are variously modified to meet physiological uses.

The anatomical divisions of the canal, with which gynaecological catarrh is concerned, are, from without inwards, the vulva, the vagina, the portio-vaginalis, the os uteri, the cervix uteri, and the Fallopian tubes.

The frame-work of the uro-genital system, of which the genital canal is a part, is developed from the embryonal glands—the Mullerian ducts. These
organs, two in number, by fusing, the process begins in the third month, and the septum thus made is not completely removed until late in the eighth month, form the uterus and vagina, the Fallopian tubes representing the portions of the Mullerian ducts that remain intact.

The Mullerian ducts are developed in the mesoblast, the middle or intermediate layer of the blastoderm, from which they derive their connective tissue and muscular superstructure, but by a process of invagination of the hypoblastic layer of the cecum they receive a covering of mesothelial cells which ultimately furnishes the entire genital canal with a mucous membrane.

Beyond the fact that in some parts, notably the corpus uteri, where the arrangement of lining membrane is unlike that of any other mucous membrane, for here the glandular layer is directly adherent to the subjacent muscularis, and there is an absence of any intervening connective tissue subtratum or submucosa, the mucous membrane of the genital canal does not differ materially from mucous membranes generally.

This tissue, the use of which is to furnish a protective covering for internal parts that communicate with the surface of the body—an internal skin—is built upon a simple plan, epithelial cells and
Leucorrhoea
and other varieties of Gynaecological Catarrh

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