

J. T. KENT



***SEXUAL
NEUROSES***

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Sexual Neuroses

Enriched edition.

Introduction, Studies and Commentaries by Peter Boyd

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PREFACE.

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In presenting this little monograph to the profession, I have no apologies to offer. My only hope is, that the subject may be as seriously considered as it deserves. Believing that a superabundance of modesty has prevented facts from being duly presented to the profession, and thinking myself endowed with less of that desirable virtue than others, I can but conclude that my reputation will not suffer from reverses such as might ensue from elucidating theories, and maybe fancies, connected with such a delicate topic. But if professional minds are stimulated to a renewed study of these important phenomena, my highest anticipations will be reached.



SEXUAL NEUROSES.

CHAPTER I.

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Introductory.—The term sexual presupposes the possibility of two distinct and perfect beings, yet one is counterpart of the other, distinguished by anatomical features designated male and female; with attributes such as passion, love and reciprocal admiration. Sexually the two beings become united, constituting plurality in unity.

The sequel of such coalescence of the sexes, or marriage legitimately considered, is copulation and reproduction of the species. The summit, or peripheral center of venereal sensibility, is found at the genitalia, and in the male a concentration of nerve-force conducts, as it were, to and unites at the glans penis; and division of the terminal nerves at this point will render erection impossible. In both man and beast, the only mechanical irritation capable of exciting venereal sensibility must be at this point. When the sexual centers are physiologically irritated, from peripheral or centric influences, contentment is only possible (physiologically speaking) when male and female counterparts coalesce, or are in juxtaposition. The sexual attributes also constitute an instructive topic for study, as they become modified by civilization and the development of reason. The procreation of organic life is the sequel of the sexual connection[1q]. The living universe has been called into existence, and the perpetuation of its life-spark is only dependent upon the contact of sexes.

The universe, it is said by one theorist, was evolved; by another, who depends upon the Holy Book for a guide, all

living creatures were thaumaturgically or miraculously, and “in the twinkling of an eye,” made to exist in full form and shape. This problem will never be settled to the satisfaction of all men as long as theory and faith are at war; and small is the prospect of peace while both parties are redoubling in their forces annually. Then, we can but accept the situation of the human race, as it is, since we have no historical data of its origin, that are beyond controversy and that would be accepted as evidence in a physiological point of view. But we need no ponderous evidence to show the truth of the premise, that animal life is not perpetuated except through sexual congress. Not life *only*, but good and evil of every degree; vice, folly, crime; love and hate; society, social evil and social good: all depend, largely, upon the sexual. It is the bond of our existence; it is the wheel of our fortune; it is our guiding star; and it may be our loadstone to crime and premature death. Passions leading to love, true and gentle, or jealousy, hate, revenge, murder and suicide, all hinge on circumstances connected, directly or indirectly, with the sexual.

Our schools are conducted upon a foundation entirely sexual; educating each of the sexes in the role they are to pursue, with reference to exclusiveness in conduct. The girl is taught to pursue only such vocations, practices and manners as are becoming to her sex; the boy, on the other hand, is instructed not to enact girlish capers, but to pursue masculine vocations, from the childish toys to settled, adult labors. This all means nothing but distinctive development of the sexes.

The sexual enters our every-day lives, from childhood up; it governs our development; it modulates the voice, the build, the dress, the hair, the fashion of wearing the dress, and even the gait. In all this we can but observe the worship of the sexual; though obscure, yet every manifestation of human existence points to it. The good people of the earth profit by the grand and noble sexual unity in the marital existence, and by the pure, social relations, and chaste affections of the unmarried; but these are but a small part of human society. The masses express their worship for the sexual by debauch, dissipation, vice and crime. The common saying, whenever suicide or murder has been committed, that "*woman was at the bottom of it,*" might just as well read, "*man was at the bottom of it,*" as without the one, where would the other have been?

It is the bad use of noble agencies that often constitutes vice. Nothing ignoble, was intended by the Great Designer, should grow out of the sexual privileges, and when nobly appreciated, for moral beings a greater happiness or pleasure has not been instituted. But by long prostitution of these privileges, vices have originated; beliefs have been established; customs have been founded; even religions have been constructed and modified to suit the wishes of designing "sexualists," "free-thinkers," Mormons, etc. Occasionally, dissatisfied members of one sex will establish an innovation, or a revolutionary commotion, demanding rights which they claim have been usurped from them, and sometimes thirsting for prerogatives belonging to the opposite sex. They agitate their cause until their isolated followers establish societies and churches, effecting discord

in families, and no good to the world in general, and for themselves an unenviable reputation. Such individuals are often advocating reforms; temperance, charity, etc.; but when good comes out of one, evil grows out of ten. They often take a decided stand against the opposite sex, and when their true history is known, it will be often found that they have been suffering from unrequited love, disappointment in matrimony, deception in society, misplaced confidence, illegitimate pregnancy, etc.; or, they are phlegmatic and passionless; or, hermaphrodites; or wanting in some of the sexual appendages necessary to constitute a perfect man or woman. Then, without the complete sexual system, harmoniously balanced, all is imperfect.

My purpose in dwelling so much upon these mixed relations and disappointments, has been more especially to fully expose the predisposing causes of neuroses and more essentially of the sexual variety. As I shall labor to show that neurosis is the condition throughout our list of sexual diseases, and that all the foregoing changes, excesses and defects, depending upon the sexual, are more or less influential in predisposing human beings to brain and spinal cord disease. No person, so well as the physician, will comprehend, after once meditating upon this theme, the necessity for thorough study and a more rational understanding of the sexual. Medical writers, with one or two exceptions, have only ventured now and then an isolated paragraph, and left the physician to draw his own conclusion. Among the aboriginal tribes, the sexual appetite is and has always been indulged *ad libitum*; not only in the

natural manner, but in every conceivable way, without noticeable harm to the organs themselves, or to the nervous system. In a lesser degree this is true of slaves, sailors and peasantry, and the lower orders of civilization. Sexual endurance diminishes in proportion to the advancement in civilization and intellectual culture. A long-cultured family can not sustain, in sexual indulgence, what to the uncivilized would be a matter of indifference.

Sexual intercourse, when not contra-indicated, may relieve nervous tension and produce sleep in a moderately feeble individual; but on the other hand, if carried to excess, it may produce nervous tension, wakefulness, headache and exhaustion. There are no definite rules to regulate the sexual appetite, more than the stomach for food.

The evils of sexual intemperance are temporary, and if recent, quickly recoverable by rest only.

Says Dr. Briggs, of New York, "The sexual system is notoriously the seat of excitement and depression from psychical and mental influences. It is under the control of the sympathetic nerves, and influenced by the solar flexus[1]. Much of the peculiar sensibility experienced in this part of the body is directly referable to the mind and imagination: the manifestations are controlled by the sympathetic nerves, from the impulse given in this manner. But the mind and will, however intense, have little power over the sexual functions, except through this medium. The emotions are superior."

Predisposition.—The innate or uncaused condition, which is so commonly found among the young, is quite likely congenital and constitutional. There is evidently structural