We propose with some temerity to write on this subject, but almost entirely from the medical point of view. Intellectually, woman is the equal of man. What her mind lacks in logical power is counter-balanced by intuition. A man relies upon his reasoning faculties as he does upon his watch, and is often misled; a woman is apt to be deceived by appearances when governed too much by sentiment, and by prejudice which emanates in a man’s mind but in a woman’s heart, and in the latter case is often insurmountable. Morally, woman is man’s superior. There is one moral standard for the man, and another for the woman, which operates wholly to her disadvantage. Theoretically, there should be only one standard, but physiologically it is almost impossible.

Physically and mentally, women have been emancipated in Christian and civilised countries. Women of the middle class have profited most in this way, and a liberal education and physical exercise for women are wholly commendable, provided that the first does not result in mental indigestion, and the latter in an attempt to incur physical strains, which the man’s nervous fibre is better fitted to withstand. The future of the race belongs largely to women. Their influence over men is enormous, they have the bringing forth and the training of...
children. Many of them, however, aver that this is not their special function, and that woman attains her greatest freedom when she is free from family ties and self-supporting, and claiming equal remuneration with her competitor, man. This is independence, forsooth, until middle age brings nervous exhaustion and loneliness and the other evils attendant upon the aging spinster, or bachelor-girl as she still might fain be called. Than this, there is no sadder sight. The influence of the Great War on women at the present time is generally bad. They tend to forsake the lesser ills for what can properly be called the larger woes. Too many dislike home life, and office work is their sumnum bonum. It is here that the warning voice of the medical profession should be heard. We admit that there must be an increasing number of female clerks and typistes and so on, but we ought to say that their lives are not so healthy as those of home-staying women. Indeed, it is only a question of time until the nerves of the typiste become shattered. While it is true that to know the average woman is a liberal education, it is yet sad but true that apparently an increasing number are unwilling to undertake the pains and cares of child-bearing, and women are more to blame than men for the deplorably decreasing birthrate, and educated women more culpable than their working-class sisters. The evil resulting is both quantitative and qualitative. A much healthier public opinion needs to be formed by the influence largely of thoughtful and patriotic women themselves, but doctors who have access to the homes of the people can do much missionary work as occasions offer in this great cause. We believe evil effects in many ways, excitement and restlessness, have followed immediately on all great wars, and the adorable sex probably is passing through this phase at the present time, but we trust that soon to most women a home will become more attractive than an office or a shop, and a baby the most desirable possession on earth. As women out-number men, a proportion of women must remain unmarried, and there are other good and sufficient reasons why many women should remain single, but both to their own and the state's disadvantage. All this cannot be prevented, but married life should be exalted as a benefit to the state and to the individual, and for the physical well-being of women, and the status of domestic helpers should also be raised so that the woman who is a wife and a mother should not be left unassisted in the cares of housekeeping and home-making. Napoleon said that the future of France lay with the mothers: so does the future of our great empire.