

## ABSTRACT OF A CLINICAL LECTURE

DELIVERED AT THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL, JULY 18TH.

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The first case upon which I intend to operate to-day was admitted into hospital July 1st, and has the following history :

Aged 21 years ; married four years ago. Two pregnancies ; the first terminated at the eighth month of gestation, the other at the third month. Ever since this miscarriage, which took place two years ago, she has complained of the following symptoms : severe pain in left lumbar region, back and hypogastrium ; a bearing-down feeling constantly present ; dysmenorrhœa ; frequent micturition ; leucorrhœal discharge ; dyspareunia and painful defecation. She has lost her health generally, and is quite unable to do ordinary housework.

On examination, I find she has the small, delicate, though proportionately-formed pelvis so characteristic of the poorly-fed French-Canadian race. The perineum is intact, and will not require attention. There is bilateral laceration of the cervix uteri, with ectropion and extensive glandular hypertrophy. The uterus is enlarged, hard, tender, and retroverted to the third degree. It is mobile, and easily replaced to its normal position, showing that if we can only adopt some method of treatment which will keep it permanently in the forward position, we will in all probability relieve our patient of her suffering.

Before we touch upon the subject of treatment, however, it would be well to ask ourselves how so grave a pathological condition of the uterus could occur in so young a woman. If we look back we will see that she was married at 17 and became immediately pregnant. Now at this age the pelvic organs have not sufficiently matured to be capable of carrying out the functions of pregnancy and parturition without suffering injury to themselves in making the attempt. In this case the uterus with difficulty fulfilled its functions until the eighth month of gestation, when, unable to do so any longer, it expelled the contents. The cervix, not being properly prepared for such an event, gave way instead of dilating, giving rise to one of the most serious