

When impregnation does not occur the good effect passes off very quickly. This line of treatment is useless when the flexion is very acute; for the unmarried it is also impossible, or, at least, very painful without an anæsthetic.

Overdilatation has also its merits. It may be done with tents or the rapid forcible method. The action is not the same; with the tents it is simply a distension of the canal; by the rapid method there is, in addition, more or less tearing of the tissues when the operation is pushed to its fullest extent. Dilatation by means of tents is simply the beforementioned slight dilatation carried a step further, and under similar circumstances may be admissible.

The advocates of the rapid method claim that it is suitable in all cases, whether the patient be married or not. If it cured or greatly relieved the majority of cases at the first operation, this treatment could have much said in its favor, for it is easy in its performance, and is, so far as the writer has seen, harmless, if the late Professor Spence's saying be remembered, that to pass a bougie through a urethral stricture, what was most wanted were patience and sweet oil, though nowadays it would have to be something more than sweet. Many patients are not cured unless, of course, they become pregnant, and the writer has heard a strong advocate of the method say that we must go on dilating until we get a cure. This necessity for repetition is a fatal objection, if by any other method even as great a proportion of cases can be cured by one single operation. With reference to this form of dilatation, there is one thing that must be borne in mind—it is that when the stretching is done it must be done thoroughly. Hegar's dilators, or some similar instruments, are as a rule employed in this country, and they do very well, though sometimes, when the tissues are very hard, a double-bladed dilator does better. Whatever instrument is used, the stretching ought to be carried out while the uterus is fixed by tenaculum in its natural position; not as is taught in some schools,

when it is drawn to or outside the vulva.

(d). Simpson's lateral and Sims' posterior division of the cervix must have been performed a very great number of times, often with satisfactory results when the patients were married. The object of both operations is to enlarge the uterine canal; the objection to both is that this result is often only temporary. To give much prospect of the canal remaining open it is necessary to keep a plug (preferably one of glass) in the canal until the wound or wounds have thoroughly healed by granulation, and then to pass a bougie occasionally. The result of this irritation is that the cervix is apt to become hard, and symptoms may arise of as much importance as those the operation was intended to cure. As compared with dilatation, these operations have no advantage; they do not do more good than they may do more harm; they are not safer or more easily performed; and the patient requires to be kept in bed for as long a time.

All these different forms of treatment are wanting in certainty; dilating, division, etc., may result in complete failure; there may be improvement neither in the symptoms nor in the local condition; and it is thus not to be wondered at that many able practitioners are opposed to local treatment. The logical position they have taken up in the past is strongly assailed by Dr. Dudley's modification of Sim's operation of backward division. Indeed, the modification makes such a great difference that it is practically a new operation. What is aimed at may briefly be described as the straightening of the uterine canal, and the healing of the cut surfaces of first intention, so that there will be no hard tissue, or possibility of the old bend returning. The operation was described by Dr. George Keith two years ago for the first time in England. The most essential part of the operation is the accurate stitching together of each half of the wound made when the cervix is divided. Performed with the uterus in its natural position, with the help of a Sims' speculum three-quarters of an inch across, it is not