

instrument is too flexible and bends in the hand, which is a bad fault.

In regard to the operation I do not think it should ever be done without an anæsthetic. I have disregarded this provision many times myself, but must admit that there have been few occasions upon which I did not feel a regret that I had so acted. The operation is never so perfectly done, it is hurriedly done, and to say that the patient does not suffer pain is untrue. I have known them to suffer severely and the operation to be followed by a certain amount of shock. It is also unsafe to curette a uterus without first freely using the powerful steel dilators to at least 1 inch. This is done to ensure good drainage, and should be done whether the cervical canal seems sufficiently patent or not. The curetting should be continued until no more endometrium can be obtained, two to three minutes being ample in point of time. The cavity should now be irrigated with plain warm water, after which we must decide what form of dressing we are going to apply. The simplest form is to let the part alone and return the patient to bed; injection of iodized phenol, by means of a syringe made for the purpose, and containing 30 to 60 m. of the fluid. Churchill's tincture of iodine is sometimes used but it is much more painful and less effective than the iodized-phenol. Swabbing the cavity with pure carbolic acid is a very good method and has in my hands given good results. Packing the cavity with pledgets of cotton wool impregnated with iodoform is the method known as Vulliet's. It is, however, difficult to do, is clumsy, and if the cavity is packed too firmly, the procedure will give rise to severe uterine colic.

Of all the methods, however, of dressing the uterine cavity after curetting, which has proved most satisfactory, is that of filling it carefully with iodoform gauze, and leaving the end extruding from the external os. The pressure here exerted upon the uterine walls can be so beautifully and perfectly graded according to the judgment of the operator, that all hæmorrhage is at once arrested. Tags of unfinished shavings are compressed firmly against the denuded surface, and unite there. Under other circumstances these unfinished scrapings often