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EDITORIAL

ILLEGAL OPERATIONS.

On several occasions we have pointed out the grave danger that members of the profession subject themselves to when they perform illegal operations on a patient, either from sympathy or for a fee. We once heard a very experienced business man say that when you allowed your judgment to be influenced by sympathy, you might safely say you had made a mistake. In the same way it may be said that to do these operations for a fee does not pay. A lengthy observation of the conduct of these patients reveals the fact that they cannot be trusted. With tears in their eyes they will promise that they would never reveal anything; but the fact is they do print the event abroad and tell their women friends. Further, if any trouble arises they will give the operator away to save themselves.

Members of the profession will find it to their interest to exercise great vigilance in all their dealings with such women. Some of these women are in the pregnant condition illegitimately. This is a most dangerous class to have anything to do with. They have no home, as a rule, and live in rooms or in boarding-houses. If anything goes wrong they have no means of securing proper care; and things are very liable to take an adverse course.

Another class of women who seek to have abortions induced are married women who do not wish to have children. These women will make up all sorts of plausible yarns, such as that they are in poor health, or that things have gone badly with them, or that their husbands are not kind to them, and so on. Turn a deaf ear to all such appeals. They will not stand investigation. There is only one condition that can justify the arrest of pregnancy, namely, some grave condition of ill-health that threatens the life of the mother. Then interference should only be resorted to after a consultation.