



Fig. 3. Appearance of the lower part of the pelvis after the pelvic peritoneum has been united to the vaginal mucosa. The pelvic peritoneum has been joined to the vaginal mucosa by means of interrupted catgut sutures and the stumps of the vessels have been covered over. The bladder has been drawn well up and the vagina is much shortened.

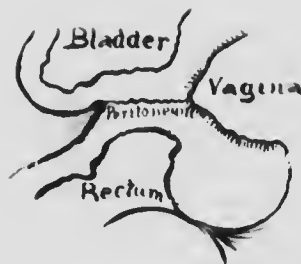


Fig. 4. Closure of the pelvis. The pelvic peritoneum is united over an area from 2 to 3 cm. long, care being taken not to pinch any vessels. If the vagina is lax, the perineum should be repaired.

I thought that this operation was original (if any vaginal hysterectomy can really be considered new) until my visit to Rochester a few years ago. There I saw Dr. Wm. J. Mayo do an operation somewhat similar in character, the only differences being that he did not take out so large a cuff of vaginal mucosa surrounding the cervix as we have done, and that Douglas' pouch was not at once opened up and a finger introduced as a guide. These, of course, are only minor differences.