

abdominal cavity was sponged out, and, singular to say, the sponges were hardly colored, so little blood found its way in owing to the pressure made on the abdominal walls by the assistants. The abdominal wound was then closed by means of two deep and ten superficial silk sutures, the deep ones, of course, embracing the peritoneum. By this time the patient had completely rallied, and had come from under the influence of the chloroform. She was removed to bed, and hot water bottles placed all around her. A quarter of a grain of morphia was injected into her arm with the hypodermic syringe, and she appeared very comfortable. The extremities and body soon got warm, and she fell into a nice sleep. The temperature was normal and the pulse 120 when we left.

I did not see her again, but Drs. O'Keefe and Abbott were in constant attendance, and from them I learned she progressed nicely (with the exception of occasional vomiting) till Monday morning about one o'clock, when she began to get very weak. In a short time she became comatose, and died about 6 a.m., just 48 hours after the operation. There was no post-mortem, so we could not tell exactly what caused death. It certainly was not shock. It was almost too soon for peritonitis. It might have been hemorrhage into the intestinal cavity, owing to the giving way of some of the sutures caused by the vomiting, or, what in my judgment is more likely, *exhaustion*, caused, in the first place, by long continued labor pains, and added to by the many and varied attempts at delivery by instruments through the vagina, which finally reached the climax when Cæsarean section was performed, and by loss of blood incident thereto.

I will conclude this imperfect report of a most interesting case by saying that, taking it all together, it was a remarkable one, as this is the first case that has ever come under my notice where a woman had borne a child naturally and then had to be delivered subsequently by Cæsarean section. And when you consider the many disadvantages we labored under—performing the operation in the country, at midnight, by the light of two small coal-oil lamps, with only the assistance of the medical men, and the thermometer at zero, the wonder is that we