

being introduced the impressions received from external palpation were confirmed, a shallow sulcus or depression separating the tumor on the right side from the fundus of the uterus. On it being traced towards the pelvic brim the uterus and tumor were found to completely fill the space. The incision was extended upwards and the fundus uteri and tumor turned out. As the tumor fluctuated a trocar was thrust into it, and a quantity of sero-purulent fluid escaped.

Discussion. Dr. Laphorn Smith said that the ground had been thoroughly gone over by Drs. Cameron and Gardner, and that there remained very little to discuss. He had had a rather large experience with fibroids and he had found most of them to be in women who were either unmarried or who if married were sterile. This was probably due to the fact that very soon after the appearance of a fibroid the mucous membrane of the uterus becomes so diseased that it was not fit to nourish the ovum, and partly because there was generally mechanical obstruction to the entrance of the semen. He had, however, seen several cases become pregnant and the pregnancy terminated happily. He was opposed to interference in the majority of cases, the experience of those who had interfered not being encouraging. He did not think that the liquid which was found in the cavity of the tumor was due to breaking down, but that it was rather due to distention of a lymph space. It was a common thing in fibroids of any size to find accumulations of fluid in the peritoneal cavity. He thought that this was due to pressure of the tumor on a large vein, in other words to exudation from mechanical obstruction.

Dr. Johnston also thought that the fluid was due to distention of lymph spaces, as there had not been time for degeneration to have taken place.

Dr. Cameron thought that the reason why women with fibroids were so often sterile was that they aborted almost immediately, such abortion being mistaken for a prolonged period.

Dr. Gardner remembered three cases of women with fibroids being delivered. The first was the wife of a medical man, who was delivered prematurely. She had intense after-pains. All went well during a fortnight, when what appeared to be a period came on with very severe pain. She had a rigor, and the case seemed so urgent that an operation was decided upon. The tumor was removed piecemeal by the vagina and the uterus was kept aseptic by almost constant irrigation, and she recovered. The second case was a patient of Dr. Gurd, who had several sub-peritoneal fibroids, and who was successfully delivered at seven months by a midwife. The third was a patient who was delivered at full time. Several large fibroids which were in the way were pushed up-out of the pelvis up into the abdomen, but the patient died half an hour afterwards from internal hemorrhage.

Progress of Science.

THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-HELP AND SELF REGULATION TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF THE STATE.

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[Read before the Missouri State Medical Association.]

It must have occurred to every one who has given serious thought to the subject that the time is ripening for another forward movement on the part of the physicians of the State; when a further advance in legislation may properly be demanded on behalf of our profession; when the beneficial fruit of wise enactments may be secured greater than is now possible, even if the administration of the present law regulating medical practice had never been hampered and beset by divers hindering causes and circumstances, that are so well known to many members of this Association that no statement in detail is now necessary.

That the profession in its forward progress has not realized all the benefit possible to be derived from the present law during the nearly seven years of its existence is true; this has been because difficulties and obstacles early arose that could only be overcome and removed by time and patience, but the practical demonstration of the full possibilities of such a law, ably administered for a period of nearly thirteen years, has been witnessed in a neighboring State, so that profiting by the experience of others and knowing very nearly its metes and bounds, its strength and weakness, we in this State can, if we chose, so shape and order our future course as to avoid the elements of weakness and keep safely the elements of strength found in existing legislation.

It would appear therefore to be the part of wisdom and prudence if a further advance step shall be resolved upon to consider in what direction lies safety and prosperity—how the profession in the largest sense may be most benefited.

As I view the matter there is no choice of paths—the only true course lies plain before us, and it is in a direction in keeping with all the traditions of our political system, and accords fully with the exercise and enjoyment of rational freedom and widest liberty. This course, therefore, is advised rather than to take the chances of continuing under our present law with the eventual likelihood of having in the end to face the untoward possibilities and detrimental contingencies that are a part of the very fibre and woof of its substance; for in this case, in the