

unusual. There was no evidence of putrefaction, and this foetus must have been in the uterus *four months* after it ceased to live.

Dr. H. J. Garrigues of New York relates a case* of a woman 30 years of age, married ten years; in her sixth pregnancy, and having had daily hæmorrhages for the past four weeks. No sounds were audible. Pregnancy with dead foetus was diagnosed. About a week later the bleeding ceased, and the patient felt well. About *nine months* after last menstruation, a foetus and placenta, in one mass, were expelled; they were perfectly fresh. The foetus seemed to be at the end of fourth month, with partial arrest of development. Had hare-lip and cleft palate. The soft parts were much atrophied.

To make the subject fairly complete, I suppose I should say a few words about the best procedure to follow in the treatment of missed abortion. Generally speaking, we should abstain from interference until one of two accidents take place—*severe hæmorrhage* or symptoms of *septic infection*. In the case of severe hæmorrhage, we should wait long enough only to allow the patient to recover reaction from the loss of blood under the well applied vaginal tampon. Then clean out the uterus thoroughly, if sufficiently dilated; if not, insert a tupelo tent for two or three hours and then operate.

The cases where sudden chills and elevations of temperature set in, with rapid pulse, every moment's delay is so much loss to the patient's chances of recovery and to our reputation. Pass in as large a tupelo tent as possible, remove it in a few hours, and thoroughly curette the uterus with the dull curette until every vestige of decomposed decidua has been removed. Then wash out the uterus with at least a quart of warm sublimate solution (1-2000), using a fountain syringe and tube having a return-stream. In regard to this procedure, the adage, "The man who hesitates is lost," was never more aptly applied than in this instance.

I am here tempted to give two cases which occurred to me some short time since, illustrative of one each of these very accidents. A woman, who had borne many children, but had

* *American Journal Obstetrics*, page 963, 1884.