

say in the second month or early in the third, where the egg was intact, with practically no after-birth—this was the class of case which should be interfered with as little as possible. The egg acts as a plug to prevent the bleeding. If left alone and ergot administered, the uterus would likely empty itself. During the first three or four months the influence of ergot was to expel anything in the uterus. After that he thought the action different; it tended to tetanic spasm and to some extent prevented the expulsion of the contents of the uterus. The doctor said that if one had introduced his finger into the uterus and found there were contents he could not get at unaided, it was most important that an assistant should be sent for, chloroform administered, and the work of emptying the uterus done thoroughly, and as quickly as possible, and under the strictest antiseptic precautions.

Dr. J. F. W. Ross said there was not the slightest doubt but that abortion could be prevented if it were not due to syphilis. If syphilis were the cause, the administration of iodide of potash would tend to check abortion. He cited cases which showed this to be the case. In cases due to endometritis it was necessary to treat that condition. He thought the chlorate of potash administered did good. He had called attention in a recent paper to the differential diagnosis between threatened abortion, gonorrhœal endometritis and ruptured ectopic gestation. He cited the history of a case where pregnancy was associated with a pelvic tumor which produced miscarriage. The case was a serious one; it was with great difficulty that the uterus was emptied. In cases where criminal abortion had been tried, he usually advised, where there was a high fever and rapid pulse, the cervix being undilated, that the uterus be left alone. He believed medical men should not burden themselves with the responsibility. The doctor said he had found the placental forceps serviceable in some cases.

Dr. Forfar said that his method was first to prepare the patient under chloroform by washing the vulva with green soap, to scrub parts with a nail brush, wash out the vagina with the tincture of green soap first, then thoroughly with a solution of 1-4000 bichloride solution; dilate the os with Hank's dilators until the reflow catheter can be inserted to wash out the uterus, then curette, going over the surface of the endometrium twice; then wash again, then insert a canula and introduce a ten per cent. drain of iodoform gauze, tying a string to the gauze to facilitate its removal.

Dr. W. J. Greig said he supposed that in cases where the fœtus was delivered, the cord separated, the placenta retained with a contracted.