

It has been proposed to substitute the rectal for the vaginal touch in *the case of virgins*, to the end of not shocking modesty and preserving the hymen intact. This substitution, advised notably by Lisfranc and Scanzoni, has not been generally accepted by gynecologists.

Professor Simon, of Hiedelberg, has advised, in certain cases difficult to diagnose, the insertion in the rectum not only of one or two fingers but also the entire hand up to the wrist, a procedure originating in veterinary medicine, and which has caused death in several cases owing to the destruction of the walls of the intestine. The Simon's method should therefore be discarded.

Double Touch.—The vaginal and rectal touch may both be practiced at the same time—to the end of more closely examining the recto-vaginal septum, the retro-uterine cul-de-sac—and thus discover any tumors situated in these localities. For this purpose different processes may be used, to wit :

1st. The index finger of one hand is inserted in the vagina, while the index finger of the other hand is inserted in the rectum.

2nd. The thumb of one hand is inserted in the rectum, the index finger of the same hand in the vagina.

3rd. While the index finger is in the vagina, the middle finger of the same hand is introduced in the rectum.

Of these three procedures the last-named is the best, for it permits us to penetrate high up in both orifices and thus explore the whole extent of the recto-vaginal septum, the posterior face of the uterus up as high as the fundus, and finally the peritoneal cul-de-sac and the large ligaments. All these parts are elastic in their normal condition, and any sensation of resistance should awaken close attention, and lead us to infer that some morbid lesion exists, the seat and nature of which must be afterwards determined.

By the double touch we are also enabled to correct any errors of diagnosis so easily committed by those unaccustomed to practicing the rectal touch. The neck of the uterus, in fact, projects considerably into the intestine, and may be mistaken for a tumor of the septum or large ligaments, an error impossible to make when the double touch is practiced.

The touch being of all methods of gynecological exploration the most important and valuable, may in certain difficult cases be aided by various other useful aids, and combined with various other manipulations, and the question may arise of combining the rectal vaginal touch with hypogastric palpation, and the double touch.

We may also resort simultaneously to the rectal touch and catheterism of the bladder—when we suspect atrophy or absence of the uterus, inversion of that organ, etc. We are likewise able, in the presence of a uterine tumor, whose point of origin

we wish to determine, to seize it with a strong pair of forceps and draw it downwards, and after placing the instrument in the hands of a skilled assistant to practice with one hand the rectal touch, while, with the other hand we apply hypogastric palpation. Other better combinations may still be imagined, and suggest themselves to the minds of the wise practitioner following his wants.—*Cincinnati Clinic and Lancet.*

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COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

The detective officer of the College sends us the following details of his work, since the meeting of the Governors in September last:—

1st. The celebrated charlatan, Antoine Racicot, 220 St. Lawrence Main Street, Montreal, was prosecuted at the last term of the court; he confessed judgment, paid the fine and costs. 2nd. Another, by the name of Thomas Ward, residing at Notre Dame du Richelieu, County of Rouville, was prosecuted at the same term; he confessed judgment, paid fine and costs and promised to retire from practice. 3rd. Another, by the name of Jean Bte. Guay, residing at St. Gervais, county of Bellechasse, has been prosecuted; he confessed judgment and promised to stop. 4th. One of our well-known charlatans, named Isidore Provincial, residing at Windsor Mills, after being prosecuted, and seeing that he would not be allowed to continue practice, has removed to the United States.