

operation for their removal should it become necessary, but, on the contrary, improved the chances of an ultimate successful result. He called attention to the fact that when once removed these organs cannot be replaced, and asked the question if it was not a serious error, in the light of recent developments in the etiology and pathology of the inflammations of the appendages, to remove these organs without previous attempt at a cure or removal of the cause which may be operating to maintain such condition. It may be denied that diseased tubes and ovaries are removed unnecessarily, but it must be admitted that they are too often removed for disease which is amenable to patient and persistent treatment, or which may be cured by a minor surgical operation, involving no risk, such as curettage or repair of a lacerated cervix.

If these cases are submitted to careful treatment instituted for the purpose of clearing up the surrounding exudation and favoring drainage through the natural channel (the uterus), in many instances the necessity for a radical operation would be removed, and the woman would be restored to a life of usefulness and happiness.

In corroboration of these views, he reported 12 selected cases which had come to him from other gynæcologists, who believed that removal of the diseased organs was the only method to be adopted for restoration of their health, yet these patients recovered completely without the loss of these organs.

The writer stated that these were not the only cases with such an unfavorable outlook which he had been able to cure in this manner, but they had been selected from among a number of others because they had consulted other gynæcologists before they came under his observation.

### A PLEA FOR EFFICIENT LEGISLATION REGULATING MEDICAL PRACTICE.\*

By PERRY H. MILLARD, M.D., OF ST. PAUL.

During the last decade no question in medical sociology has attracted greater attention than medical education. The requirements of our colleges not being upon a par with those of other countries, nor with other departments of education in this country, it was but natural that the profession as a whole, the medical press and organized bodies of medical men, should join in a demand for needed reforms. During the formative period of our history it is but natural that abuses should have arisen in methods of education and obtain a firm rooting. A spirit of criticism exists that will not subside pending the definite determination of a question of such vital interest to the profession of the country.

As a nation during the first century of our history, we have established a system of common school education that challenges the admiration of the civilized world. It is a subject of regret, however, that in certain advanced lines of education our methods have proven most defective. This is true of medical education; a system having secured foothold with us, that is indeed anomalous.

Having no support other than the fees of students; without university or college connection; without support from the State, generally accorded other systems of education; without restraining legislative enactments; without laws regulating the granting of charters for purposes of medical instruction; it is indeed little wonder that at the end of the first century of our history as a nation, chaos should reign supreme.

The agitation of the question of medical education is bearing fruit, however, in that a majority of the schools situated in the northern States demand at the present time evidence of preliminary fitness before matriculation, and that in a period of five years all colleges known to the writer have extended the period of time of study, with a change of the minimum length of term from five to six months. After the present year every medical school of recognized standing will require attendance upon four courses of lectures in different years, of six months' duration each course, before conferring the degree of M.D. The reforms thus far accomplished have only been secured in the face of determined opposition at the hands of the representatives of the low grade institutions. Future opposition will result in disaster to the participants. Professional sentiment is decidedly with those schools now operating under the advanced curricula. This is particularly manifested by the increased number of matri-

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