

The Canada Lancet

VOL. XXXIX.

DECEMBER, 1905

No. 4.

ECTOPIC GESTATION.*

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MR. President and Gentlemen,—By the term "Ectopic Gestation" we indicate those cases where fertilization of the ovum takes place, and development goes on, during its passage between the Graafian follicle and the uterus. Cases very closely allied to these are the ones where the ovum is arrested within the tube as it traverses the wall of the uterus, and those that happen in a horn or diverticulum of the uterus. Such varieties are comparatively rare.

Looking into the early history of extra uterine pregnancy, we find amongst those who have operated for its relief such names as Heister, Simon, Christopher Bain, and others, Primrose, in 1854, reporting probably the first successful case. Then there came, on this side of the water, in 1764, J. Bard, of New York, followed by Bynham, McNight, Wishart, Stevens and others.

Up to the end of 1875, Parry had collected a list of sixty-two operations for the removal of "extra uterine children," with thirty successes and thirty-two failures. It was not until comparatively recent years that we could look upon operations for the relief of extra uterine pregnancy as occupying a high place amongst the methods advocated for the relief of this distressing condition.

To the late Lawson Tait, of Birmingham, certainly belongs the honor of so analyzing the symptoms that an early diagnosis could be made, and of deliberately and successfully operating on many cases, and of placing the results before medical men in such a way that we are enabled to offer relief now to many who in former times succumbed. Tait, by what was then considered a remarkable series of successful cases, brought the operation into the front rank of life-saving measures. His results were certainly remarkable, if we consider them in contra distinction to the published cases above referred to, where out of sixty-two cases there were but thirty successes, whilst up to October, 1887, he had operated for the relief of early ruptured tubal pregnancy thirty-five times with only two deaths. Many of us still remember the stir which the publication of these records caused, and it recalls to mind the time when the diagnosis of, and operation on, cases of unruptured tubal pregnancies were unknown here. It seems but a few years since I saw the first case of the kind operated on in Toronto before rupture.

*Read before the Toronto Medical Society, 2nd November, 1905.