

has been administered and the vagina and external genitals rendered aseptic, the cervix is manually dilated. Occasionally it may be necessary to use Hagar's dilatars.

The uterus is then fixed with one hand acting through the abdominal wall, and one or two fingers, according to the age of the pregnancy, inserted and the whole interior of the organ scraped out, care being taken to loosen all parts of the ovum. If traction then fails to remove the fragments, uterine expression may be resorted to, as follows: Two fingers are placed in the posterior vaginal fornix and pressed forwards, while the external hand makes firm pressure on the fundus and anterior wall of the uterus.

In this way the organ is compressed between the two hands and the contents are forced into the vagina.

The cavity of the uterus is then washed out with some antiseptic solution at a temperature of 110-120° F. If the organ fails to retract and hæmorrhage occurs, the cavity may be plugged with iodoform gauze, a small quantity of the same material being placed in the vagina.

A Speedy Method of Dilating a Rigid Os in Parturition.

FARRAR, J., M.D. "A Speedy Method of Dilating a Rigid Os in Parturition." *Brit. Med. Jour.*, Sept. 17th, 1898.

The author of this paper, read at the Edinburgh meeting, reports five cases in which he made use of the local application of a ten per cent. solution of cocaine to overcome rigidity of the os in labour.

All the cases reported were primipara, and all had been in hard labour for many hours. In all the condition disappeared within five minutes of the application, leaving the os widely dilated.

He recommended that in these cases a sterile 10 per cent. solution of cocaine be swabbed over the cervix by means of a piece of absorbent cotton, held in a pair of forceps. The solution must be held in contact for a moment or two to secure the best results.

In no case was any deleterious effect of the cocaine noted.

In the discussion which followed the reading of the paper Dr. R. Jardine, of Glasgow, stated that he had employed cocaine pessaries without result.

Several physicians have, since the publication of the paper, reported cases in the *B. M. J.*, where this drug, applied as Dr. Farrar suggested, has proved very effectual.