



Fig. 2. *The finger as a retractor in separating the bladder from the cervix.*—The vaginal flap was dissected downwards from the bladder. Douglas' pouch was then opened up along the dotted line, and the left index finger carried down in front of the cervix tended to shove the bladder upward and away from injury while the knife dissected it from the cervix. In this case the tissue between the bladder and cervix was denser than usual.

can be passed through this opening, hooked over and carried down in front of the cervix between it and the bladder. The knife gradually cuts down upon this at a fixed point. By the employment of this method there is much less danger of injuring the bladder (Fig. 2).

After control of all the blood vessels and removal of the uterus with or without the appendages, as is deemed advisable, the peritoneum of the pelvis is drawn down and attached to the vaginal mucosa. In this way the stumps of the vessels are completely covered over and nothing but a small opening persists between the pelvis and the vagina. When one removes a large area of vaginal mucosa, as in this case, and then joins the peritoneum to the vaginal mucosa, the remaining portion of the vagina is drawn up as it were into the pelvis, no slack being left (Fig. 3), and the bladder which has been

prolapsed is again carried up into a relatively normal position.

It is comparatively easy to join the peritoneum of the posterior part of the pelvis to that of the anterior part. By means of several sutures introduced at different levels the peritoneal surfaces are approximated over a considerable area and the now shallow vagina is completely cut off from the pelvis. Care must be taken when suturing the peritoneum not to pierce any of the large vessels, otherwise troublesome oozing or a hematoma may follow.

We have removed the uterus in this way in several instances with great satisfaction. The method is applicable chiefly to those cases where marked prolapsus exists.

If the tissues are not brought up quite as snugly as one would wish, the perineum may be repaired.