

and were accompanied by very rapid emaciation. Unfortunately an autopsy could not be obtained.

This case presents many points of interest, and illustrates a chapter of accidents such as it fortunately seldom falls to the lot of the surgeon to report in any individual case.

(1) It emphasizes the necessity for instrumental exploration of the bladder by the surgeon before operating. It had heretofore been my practice to allow the nurse to catheterize the patient before bringing her into the operating room. This was done with the double object of shortening the period of anaesthesia and to avoid soiling the hands after having cleansed them for operation. Important as these matters are, however, they are not to be compared with the risk of wounding the bladder, which is occasionally carried high up into the abdomen on the surface of the tumor.

(2) It strengthens the evidence already existing to show that catgut is not to be relied upon as a suture to retain the contents of a hollow viscus. I may say here that from past experience I would not have used catgut, but that no suitable silk was at hand at the moment.

(3) The necessity for careful and thorough catheterization for at least two weeks after an accident of this kind is here shown.

Finally, with regard to the acute maniacal condition, which was the immediate cause of death, and which supervened when to all appearances the other difficulties had been overcome, I have two suggestions to make, viz., that it was due either to the toxic effects of iodoform or to the absorption of ptomaines or leucomaines from the urine retained and decomposing in the cellular tissue of the pelvis? The patient was a healthy, vigorous woman, with an excellent family history, and who had never suffered from any form of nervous derangement in her life. On the other hand, the use of iodoform had been practically discontinued for several days before the maniacal symptoms appeared, and the cavity had been thoroughly irrigated every day with a solution of salicylic acid and borax.

I need only mention here a third case, in which, during the