

more pessaries than he had ever introduced; plainly it was impossible for him to accept Dr. Hodge's views of uterine pathology and therapeutics, as it was, for a time at least, for Dr. Hodge to accept Dr. Atlee's opinions and practice in the treatment of ovarian tumors. But, apart from exclusive views, very many pessaries, unsuitable in form or size, or unnecessarily applied, or worn for too long a time, need to be removed. In reading some of the histories of removal of such foreign bodies, one is often struck with the great length of time which they have been worn before their injurious effects compelled seeking professional advice.

Sutton* removed a glass ball pessary that had been in the vagina fifteen years; Desormeaux and Dubois† mention a case where a silver-gilt pessary had remained for twenty-five years; Goodell removed a glass disk after thirty years' imprisonment; and Sabatier‡ had a patient who had worn her pessary forty years.

It does seem extraordinary that the vagina ever tolerates these foreign bodies so long a time, and yet a case reported by Pearse|| is almost as remarkable: his patient had had a cotton veil in the vagina for twenty years. So, too, the case reported by Hauff is very remarkable. A nullip,§ twenty years of age, had introduced into her vagina a coffee-cup, eighteen centimetres in circumference, and three and a half centimetres in diameter; it was removed entire after having been worn two years and a half.

So far, reference has been made to foreign bodies that have been introduced into the vagina by the patient herself, or by accident, or by the physician for therapeutic purposes. Foreign bodies have been put in the vagina, by men, from thoughtless or designed cruelty. A country girl had worn for years, before coming under the care of Dupuytren,¶ a pomade-pot in the vagina; some brutal soldiers, after making her the unwilling victim of their lust, had thrust in this foreign body.

Among other of these abominable cruelties may be mentioned the introduction of the cone of a fir tree,* a turnip,† a large crystal of sulphate of copper,‡ a wine-glass, etc. Gunsberg|| gives the case of an idiotic woman whose husband forced into her vagina a wine-glass, the stem of which was broken off; twenty-four hours after the cruelty was inflicted the wine-glass was removed not without some laceration of the vagina, a for-

ceps and Sims' speculum being used in the removal.

Instead of one foreign body there may be two or more. Schroeder§ mentions a case under his care in which there were a cockchafer and a pomade-pot in the vagina; in Trapenard's case, previously stated, there were four foreign bodies; other illustrations are furnished by the fragments of a broken syringe, by some cases of vaginal calculi formed in consequence of a vesico-vaginal fistula, and by oxyures. But the largest number of foreign bodies is given in those instances where a needle-case has been introduced closed, and when in the vagina is opened, the needles then escaping; Grenier¶ has given two cases in which this occurred.

An interesting case has been given by Dr. Graham,** where there was not only a foreign body in the vagina, but there was also one in the bladder—a spool in the former and a hair-pin in the latter; the spool had been in the vagina three years, and it was supposed that the hair-pin, which was bent in the form of a crook, had accidentally entered the urethra when the patient was attempting to remove the spool.

In considering the consequences of foreign bodies in the vagina, the least frequent will be referred to first.

There may be a serious wound of the vagina immediately resulting from the foreign body. In several of the cases where glass syringes have broken in the vagina, the latter has been wounded. Dr. Oldham†† has narrated a case in which death followed such wound; the death occurred the twelfth day, from internal hemorrhage.

The foreign body may enter adjacent organs, or penetrate into neighboring tissues, partially or completely passing out of the vaginal canal. In a patient under the care of Dupuytren,* an ivory pessary, which she had worn for many years, had partly entered the bladder, and partly the rectum, so that it occupied not only the vagina, but the other cavities mentioned. The same condition was present in the case of Desormeaux and Dubois.†

In the case of the girl 15 years old, who had the vagina entered by a lead-pencil, the point penetrating the bladder, there was a calcareous deposit upon the part within the bladder. The removal, which was done six months after the injury was received, could not be accomplished until after an incision of the vesico vaginal wall was made.

Those cases in which the foreign body passes into the uterus, partially or completely, are most remarkable. The late Dr. Crowe, of Louisville, Ky., reported a case in which a Babcock's pes-

* Supplement to the American Journal of Obstetrics, January, 1882.

† Dictionnaire de Médecine.

‡ Médecine Opératoire, Paris, 1882.

|| British Medical Journal, vol. i., 1878.

§ Centralblatt für Gynécologie, 1879.

¶ Bibliothèque du Médecin-Praticien.

* Breisky, op. cit.

† Breisky, op. cit.

‡ Medical Times and Gazette, 1863.

|| Centralblatt für Chirurgie.

§ Diseases of Women.

¶ Theses de Paris, 1834.

** Nashvill Journal, 1858.

†† Lancet, vol. i., 1870.

* Bibliothèque du Médecin-Praticien.

† Op cit.