

could be found and shortened, a permanent cure could be looked for. Many surgeons, however, are yet unwilling to admit that pessaries, perineorrhaphy and elytrorrhaphy, have entirely lost their usefulness, and that every woman with displacement should have her ligaments shortened. When extreme views of this nature were entertained the procedure became open to much abuse, as is the case with every new operation, and when those who held these views failed to obtain cherished results, chiefly through their own insufficiency, they at once began to roundly abuse the method; the finding of the ligaments could not be relied upon; when found they often would not run; when they did run they dragged the peritoneal covering with them, endangering the patient's life from an attack of peritonitis; hernia, septicæmia, and other surgical horrors would result, all of which hallucinations we can now see have been the outcome of hysterical or unstable minds.

In 1886, Dr. Manrique of Paris published a small book upon this operation. The conclusions he reached from a careful and exhaustive study of the subject are as follows: The operation of shortening the round ligaments is perfectly rational from an anatomical and physiological standpoint. It cures deviations and displacements by placing the uterus in such a position that the current of the forces, which gravitate towards the pelvis, will converge behind that organ instead of impinging on its surface. Complete or incomplete prolapse may be cured by this operation, except when complicated by periuterine adhesions. Where cystocele, rectocele or prolapse of vagina complicated with the uterine displacement, elytrorrhaphy should be performed in addition to Alexander's operation. The operation will also restore the prolapsed ovaries if not adherent. It does not interfere with the course of gestation nor the phenomena of labor.

Of the recorded cases of death following Alexander's operation none have been proven on enquiry but one of Alexander's own and one of Bozeman's. In both of these cases the cause of death was pyæmia. From an impartial standpoint, then, Alexander's operation may be said to be free from danger, rational in its aim, and probably effective in results.

There is a historical side to this operation, to which we will