

the reports 3,172 consecutive autopsies held between February 1898 to February 1908 at the Cook County Hospital, not one case of perforated uterus is recorded. In all the cases of abortion and in all the cases of pregnancy, treated at the same institution during the years 1903-1907 inclusive (5 years) 495 abortions, 2,343 pregnancies, only three perforations of the uterus occurred, 2 died (autopsy denied), one, treated expectantly, recovered. By diligently searching the American, English, French and German literature from the year 1895 to 1907 inclusive, I have been able to collect 160 cases of uterine perforations due to perforating wounds, inflicted during the course of intra-uterine instrumentation. In Hebreysend's Thèse, (Paris, 1901, Les Plaies perforantes de l'utérus), will be found some cases not included in our table. They do not in any way impair our conclusions. So as to more intelligently discuss perforations of the uterus, it is convenient to classify them into True and False perforations.

(a) True perforations may be spontaneous; that is, they may occur without the aid of violence; may be secondary or consecutive, that is, they may follow an insult to the uterine tissues, be that insult chemical, thermic, bacterial, or traumatic in nature. (2. a. b.) The perforation may follow the insult immediately, or only become established after an interval of time. All uterine perforations due to perforating wounds are true perforations.

(b) False, or pseudo-uterine perforations are not perforations in fact. (3 a. b. c. d.) We will briefly discuss these pseudo-perforations, and then eliminate them from the paper. They have caused diagnostic errors, followed by such operative mistakes, as needless laparotomies, as removal of intact uteri, The term pseudo-perforation is used, to designate a condition capable of conveying to the operator the impression that he has perforated the uterine wall, when in fact this mishap has not occurred. What then, has occurred?

1. The uterine sound or other instrument may have slipped into a double uterus (uterus didelphys). (4.) It may have entered a uterus unicornis.

2. The instrument may have slipped into the dilated uterine end of a Fallopian (5 a. b. c. d. e.) tube (very rare) or