

too thankful by half. It is now many years since I have told women thus applying that I would not prescribe for them if there were any reason to suspect pregnancy. If you give medicine to a woman who thinks she is pregnant, and her period returns, nothing will convince her that she was not *enceinte*, that your recipe has not done the work and relieved her of her burden, and she will tell her friends how you have helped her. Who has not been told, when he declined to interfere, that other doctors do it, and the patient will give names of good repute to fortify her statement, which is born of some such practise as I have noticed? Nothing but a point-blank refusal to have anything to do with the case will produce the desired effect; and it is best to add, when they threaten to go to an abortionist, that they must not send for you to supplement his work. They seldom do go if probable consequences—physical, moral and legal—are forcibly presented. But if you do so present them, you may consider your own hands aseptic, even if you have to eat your words and attend the patient after all you have said.

I know of a case, not in this neighborhood, where a physician was applied to by a young lady in one of his choice families who had the best of reasons for believing herself to be in the family way. After recovering from the shock, he deeply lamented the situation, and that professional reasons and legal requirements forbade him to help her out of her dilemma. She then declared that she knew where to go for help. Just how it was arranged I know not; but I do know that she went to the abortionist, that the family doctor engaged a nurse who received her on her return from town, and who, it was given out, was Cousin Minnie from Buffalo, on a visit. The doctor was sent for, assisted in the expulsion of the ovum, everything went off well, no one was the wiser, and miss soon recovered from the grip. I hold, and I hope all here hold, that the doctor, if the story be correctly told, was accessory and accomplice in the abortion. I say I hope; for I regret to add that some of his friends maintain that he did nothing professionally or morally questionable.

A friend of mine found himself wondering how it was that so many cases of miscarriage fell to his lot. He learned later that a well-known abortionist of the day had operated on a woman who had been obliged subsequently to send for my friend. He did his work so well, that the miscreant was pleased to approve, and recommended all his victims to send for him if they needed a doctor. Thus my friend—one of the straightest of our sect—found himself, to his dismay, in association with a man whose neck he would willingly have broken. The partnership was dissolved, I believe, by the death of the senior member.