

the cure of three patients by the following decidedly drastic method of treatment. Five days prior to one menstrual period, he thoroughly curetted the uterus, using first a sharp curette and then an inflexible one of dull wire. The cavity is then thoroughly cleansed by swabs of cotton moistened in a 1 per cent. solution of carbolic acid. This latter solution is then replaced by one of 2½ per cent. of the same acid, at least twenty applications of this stronger solution being made at the one sitting. A loosely rolled wad of iodoform gauze is placed in the vagina and the patient is returned to her bed, having an ice-bag over the hypogastrium. The menstruation now due is generally missed. The patient receives a similar treatment, except that the sharp curette is omitted, fourteen days after the first operation and two other curettings with the dull curette, followed by the application of the acid, etc., at intervals of from fourteen to seventeen days, the amount of tissue which could be removed being less and less each time. In the first case, the menstruation was normal after the third month from beginning treatment. The patient became pregnant soon after and was quite well after delivery. The second patient had one relapse, which was cured by one more course of treatment, while the third required but the one course.

Duke treats membranous dysmenorrhœa by scarifying the cervix three or four times weekly between the periods. Just before menstruation begins, he thoroughly curettes the uterus and introduces a spiral-wire stem pessary into its cavity. This is worn for three or four months, the patient taking daily hot douches, even during the flow. This, however, is rather risky treatment, as one cannot always watch the patient as closely as one would like to when she is wearing a stem pessary. His objects evidently are to deplete the uterus, remove the diseased mucous membrane and allow of free drainage of the uterine cavity, so that the tissue may not form again.

The *spasmodic* form of dysmenorrhœa depends in many cases upon constitutional conditions, such as strong neurotic tendencies, and can often be cured by drugs, one of the first indications being to restore tonicity to the nervous system by arsenic, nux vomica, zinc, etc. Anti-spasmodics are indicated just before the period approaches, and, as there is often more or less anæmia present, iron and chlorate of potash may be added with benefit. A favourite prescription of my former teacher, Dr. J. Halliday Croom, is for a mixture containing *actæa racemosa*, perchloride of iron, chlorate of potash and *serpentaria*, and I can bear witness to its undoubted efficacy in many cases. Olliver gives a combination of ammonium, potassium and sodium bromide nightly for one week midway between two periods and then