

adopting what I believe to be the best method of treatment—viz., the introduction of the sound and the exhibition of ergot. In such cases as those I have related, where the usual symptoms are absent, or where, having existed, they have ceased for some months, we may be pretty sure that the foetus is dead, and consequently we shall not be interfering unadvisedly with gestation by employing such means as may cause the uterus to contract. If the uterus contain nothing, but is enlarged from other causes, the ergot and sound will do no harm, nor interfere with such other treatment as may be necessary.

As Dr. M'Clintock has observed, when the ovum is macerated or putrid there is rarely any hæmorrhage. One of my cases was an exception, and she was the only one whose recovery was slow. All, however, did recover.

I am sorry that in none can I fix with any accuracy the duration of the retention. In all but one the membranes had been ruptured long before expulsion, but in none was there any foetus of the discharges.

The President had had a very interesting case of the kind under his observation, in which the ovum was retained for eleven months, and in that case the prominent symptom was the total suppression of menstruation. After being pregnant some eight or ten weeks, the patient met with a slight accident, and had an attack of hæmorrhage, followed by severe pain. Subsequently the discharge ceased, and for the succeeding nine months there was no return whatever of the menstrual discharge, nor any sanguineous discharge whatsoever, but her general health continued good. She was kept in hospital, and the examination which was made seemed sufficient to excite uterine action, and in the course of twenty-four hours she expelled a mole. He had also a case in which a lady, after five months' pregnancy, retained a dead foetus for more than three months.

Dr. M'Clintock said the cases were very perplexing in practice, and caused a great deal of anxiety to the patient and her friends, and the negative course that the medical man was often obliged to pursue was rather trying and difficult. Dr. Churchill seemed to have been very fortunate in the treatment of his cases, that he was enabled to accomplish the expulsion of the

ovum by the use of the sound, and the administration of ergot of rye, for cases were occasionally met with where such mild measures as these were quite insufficient to effect the emptying of the uterus, and, of course, until that be done, and any remains of the ovum removed, the woman was liable to hæmorrhage. He believed, however, that cases would be occasionally met with where those measures would completely fail. The use of plugging very often had a beneficial effect in bringing about expulsive action in the uterus. A man would, however, hesitate before employing the plug as long as there was any possibility of preserving the ovum, for it was almost certainly followed by expulsive action of the uterus.

Dr. Kidd said a case of the kind had lately come under his observation which illustrated the difficulty which Dr. M'Clintock had spoken of as to the position in which the medical man was placed, for he believed he was very frequently likely to be considered as not knowing what he was about—in fact, in some instances, not to understand the case at all. Some time ago a lady came to Dublin who had been in India, occupying a very prominent position there, and soon after coming to Dublin she had some hæmorrhage from the uterus. He was sent for, and gave it as his opinion that she was threatened with a miscarriage. However, she would not believe she was pregnant at all, and after undergoing a very careful examination, he reiterated his opinion that she was threatened with miscarriage, and that she was pregnant. She had, however, passed the period when quickening would have occurred. She had had several children; more than five months had passed since her previous menstruation, and the uterus, she said, had ceased to grow, for she maintained it was a tumour. He could not hear any sound in the tumour, and the breasts did not exhibit the plain indications of pregnancy. When he examined the uterus he was quite able to ascertain that the tumour was a uterine one. Then the os uteri had the peculiar soft pulpy feel that the os uteri had in cases of pregnancy, but as far as his experience went, it never had in cases of uterine tumour. That lady had repeated attacks of hæmorrhage, and he watched the case for some time. One day,