

membrane have undergone proliferation in some places. Several layers of non-ciliated epithelial cells, irregular in shape, are to be seen. Between the circular and longitudinal layers of the muscular coat the fibrous tissue is more dense than normal, but there does not seem to be any atrophy of the muscular elements. In the serous coat most of the small veins and capillaries are distended with blood, and there are also extravasations of blood. A large number of small round cells are to be seen in some parts of the fibrous tissue. Dr Bruere showed several of the sections under the microscope.

Dr. Alloway asked Dr. Smith why he removed the right tube and not the right ovary. The object of the operation was to bring the menopause.

Dr. Wm. Gardner also thought that the ovary should have been removed. He did not think that the menopause would occur. He said that he had repeatedly found blood-clot in the drainage tube, and he preferred the sucking method of cleansing it. There is a decided reaction going on against the drainage tube. Howard Kelly had not used it in his last forty cases, as he had learned to trust more to the power of absorption possessed by the peritoneum. If the use of the drainage tube can be avoided the patient will be in a much safer condition, for it is a source of danger, being liable to become infected. Abdominal surgery of the present day without the drainage tube is not what it was ten years ago without the drainage tube, for we have learned that if the peritoneum is aseptic it may be trusted to absorb any blood that may escape into it.

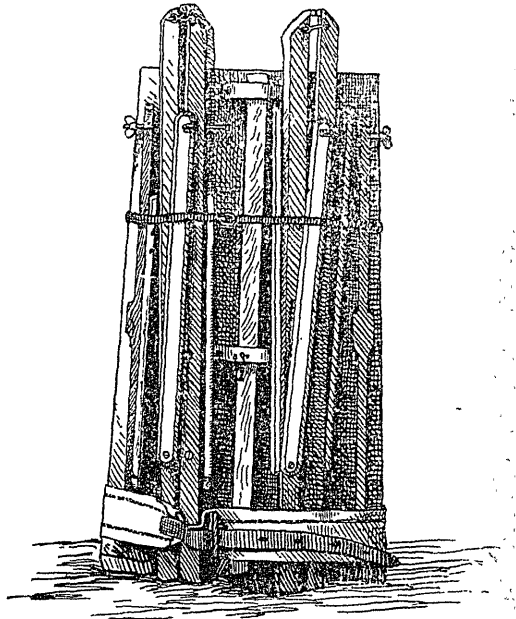
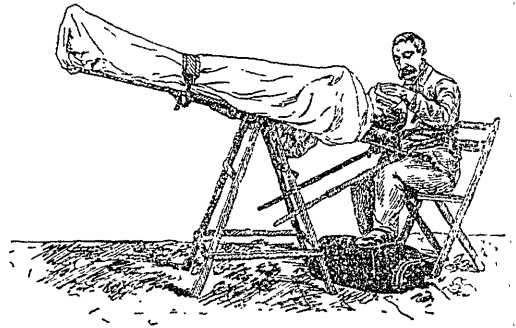
Dr. Smith, in reply, said from his experiences in a former case, where the character of the woman towards her husband had been entirely changed by the removal of the ovaries, he thought that by leaving the ovary or even a portion of one there would be enough to keep up the physical traits of sex, and he hoped that by so doing in this case the pelvic symptoms would be relieved and her character would remain unchanged.

Dr. Alloway said that it is a well known fact that the removal of the ovaries has nothing more to do with the change of character than is seen in a woman years after the menopause.

Dr. Mills thought the question was of great importance. It should be definitely settled whether a surgical operation modifies the function or not. Castration changes the nature of a dog very much more than the removal of the ovaries affects a bitch, and he regards it as an illegitimate procedure.

*A New Portable Laparotomy Table.*—Dr. Laphorn Smith exhibited a table of his own invention. He said that when a surgeon is suddenly called upon to perform laparotomy in a private house, the first requirement is a *clean,*

narrow table, and this is seldom available. He thought it was desirable for the laparotomist to bring his own table with him. Such a table must be of so small a compass that it can be placed in a carriage, and though strong enough for its purpose, should be light in weight, and should not be expensive. As certain steps of the operation are to be performed in the horizontal position and others in the Trendelenburg position, it is necessary that this table be so constructed that the change in position can be



readily made. The table, which he showed, possesses all these requirements. It is made of a pine ironing board, one inch thick, cut in the middle, and hinged so as to fold up, measuring six feet long when open and three when closed. It is 18 inches wide at the top and tapers down to 12 inches at the bottom. A sliding bar three feet long, made of hard wood, gives increased strength at the joint. The legs are made of inch and a half pine, and can be foled up; when opened out they form a sort of wooden horse,