

was applied, and he was ordered to return in forty-eight hours for further treatment. At that time, to my astonishment, the parts had united, and the nail firmly fixed in its position and remaining unimpaired and useful, not showing any indication of injury.

REPORT OF TWO CASES OF OVARIAN TUMOR.

BY F. A. LONG, M.D.

In January last, Caroline S., about twenty-two years of age, was operated upon for the removal of an ovarian tumor. Exposure of the internal organs proved the girl to be pregnant. A hypodermic needle was thrust into the uterus on the anterior surface and drew off some amniotic fluid. Three days after closure of the wound the patient gave birth to a seven-months-old fetus, and during the night following she died. The mistaken diagnosis was carefully concealed, as was also the fact that a child had been prematurely born. The girl was buried, and two weeks subsequently an inquest was called for. The post-mortem revealed the true condition of affairs, and the surgeons testified to the facts above given. They further agreed that the girl was apparently of exceptional moral character; that she always strenuously denied that there was any cause for pregnancy, and that in her case all the usual signs and symptoms of pregnancy were absent. It was shown that the girl had not menstruated for seventeen months, the last periodical flow having stopped prematurely on shipboard one and a half years ago.

The verdict of the jury virtually exonerated the surgeons. The friends of the deceased, however, had them arrested and bound over to the district court in the sum of ten thousand dollars each.

A few days after the arrest of the surgeons the brother of the dead girl and her *fiance* met the operator on the highway and shot him, five balls taking effect, one shattering the humerus near the shoulder. Neither the would-be assassins nor the surgeons have had their trials.

CASE 2.—The other case occurred in this county two years ago. A tumor was

diagnosed in a young girl of seventeen years by a young physician in his first year of practice. An operation was advised, consented to by the parents and girl, and with two assistants, members of his graduating class, and in the presence of several other professional gentlemen, who by courtesy were invited to be present, an abdominal section was made and revealed a womb pregnant about five months. This patient died the next night. The assistants took the first train to their respective abodes in Iowa, and the young doctor, whose case it was, in due time left for parts unknown, although a contribution from his pen to the Register in 1888 revealed his presence in Chicago (italics ours). In this case it appears that ordinary caution was hardly exercised in diagnosing the nature of the case, for one of the physicians present by courtesy, noticing the conspicuous central location of the enlargement, asked them to take measurements and urged them to desist from the operation, so certain did he feel of a mistaken diagnosis having been made.—*Med. Bulletin*, Dec.

HUMAN TEMPERATURE.

The internal temperature of the human body is higher than that of the surface, usually ranging from 98° to 99° Fahrenheit in moderate climates; in the tropics from 99° to 100°. It is a little higher in the young and very old than in adults; is lower at midnight than during the day; and is influenced a little by long exposure to heat or cold. The blood in the arteries is two or three degrees warmer than the body itself; but that in the veins and right side of the heart is cooler, and the temperature in the right axilla is often a trifle cooler than in the left. It is higher in the rectum and vagina than in the mouth, and higher in the mouth than in the axilla. Any persistent deviation from the normal standard of bodily heat signifies disease: a temporary deviation indicates disordered function. When the temperature falls below 97°, it means collapse; when it rises above 100°, it shows fever; and when it passes 105°, it represents "hyperpyrexia," and may then even exceed 112°.