

to be changed every four or six hours, according to the severity of the pains and the amount of the hemorrhage. Many a time have I pursued this course, and on the removal of the second or third tampon found the decidua wholly discharged and lying in the vault of the vagina, to my entire satisfaction and complete peace of mind. The case, however, does not always pursue this amiable course; the bleeding persists, the patient is getting weaker, the pains are diminishing, and still the decidua remains *in utero*, and no doubt are the direct cause, by their incomplete separation, of the continued and often alarming hemorrhage.

What are we to do? It is plain we must interfere and effect their removal. My own partiality is for the index finger. It is a natural curette, if it is clean, with a sentient surface at one end, and connected at the other with an educated brain. It is freely movable at will, and altogether is admirably adapted to scoop out the cavity of the uterus; but, alas! sometimes it is too short to fulfil its functions.

The description we read in books as to the facility with which we can scoop out the uterus with the finger is all nonsense. We are told to insert it up to the internal os, then to go up one wall clearing it off, then across the fundus from one corner to the other, and, finally, down the opposite side, sweeping everything in its path. The grand result of this often corresponds to the "Frenchman and the Flea": "You put your finger on it, and it's not there." Still, it is a useful act, and in a soft, patulous cervix with yielding abdominal walls, and patient who wont resist you all she knows how, it often succeeds, and we are rewarded with a handful of membranes and a rapidly ceasing hemorrhage.

I do not think much good occurs from immediately washing out the uterus, as is so often advised. Such, at all events, has not been any practice unless the character of the discharge demands it. An offensive discharge, a chill and a rise of temperature following the abortion, would indicate to me that a douche and an intra-uterine one was demanded. So far I have favored the carbolic acid and permanganate of potash for this purpose. I have not used peroxide of hydrogen for this purpose, but its excellent reputation as a destroyer of germs and pus points to it as a valuable means of effecting the object we have in view. I have not spoken of the curette or the placental forceps as a means of removing the contents of the uterus, because they are only means of effecting the same purpose for which the finger is used. In many cases, they are an unfortunate necessity. In all cases they must be used with great care and skill; and in some cases they are positively unjustifiable.

I forbear to speak of the result of neglected abortion. The subinvolution, the leucorrhœa, the menorrhagia, the sacral pain, and the general malaise and the invalidity unite to compose a picture often the result of