

In other cases, however, this simple treatment did not bring down the temperature and then curetting was generally resorted to, being always followed by the application of strong carbolic and Churchill's iodine to the interior of the uterus. In others, however, even this failed. In other cases the pelvic cellular tissue was found to be hardened and the uterus fixed, and in some of these cases a puncture was made into the mass and its purulent contents evacuated and drained by a rubber tube in the form of a cross, the transverse portion retaining the vertical portion in the cavity. It has been maintained by some that there is no such thing as pelvic cellulitis, but in this view I beg to differ from them, because in five cases at least I have opened the abdomen and found that while the tubes and ovaries were inflamed and adherent to the intestine or to the back of the broad ligament, yet they did not contain pus, while the broad ligament in these cases did contain pus. With Bernutz and Goupil I admit that the great majority of the cases which were formerly considered to be pelvic cellulitis were in reality cases of pelvic peritonitis due to diseased tubes and ovaries. From my own experience I should judge that, given 100 cases of a thick hard mass being felt in the pelvis surrounding the uterus, that 95 or 98 of them were due to diseased tubes and ovaries, while the remainder were genuine cases of pelvic cellulitis. I am not able to give any certain means of diagnosing the one from the other. If the ovaries and tubes remain perfectly healthy and the woman was thin, we might perhaps feel these organs floating free above the indurated mass; but in most of the cases of cellulitis the tubes and ovaries are bound down either by extension of infection through the wall of the broad ligament or by direct continuity to the uterus and tubes. In one case indeed both conditions were present, the sequence of events having been as follows: A lady whom I was engaged to confine with her first child, who was in excellent condition, of cleanly habits, and married to a virtuous husband, had such an easy and rapid confinement that the baby was born before I could be found. She was not examined either by myself or by the nurse, and she made an uneventful recovery with the exception of a temperature of 102° for 1 or 2 days, which disappeared under quinine and salines. She got up at the usual time and appeared perfectly well for three or four months,