

worse, called me in consultation. Her condition was very similar to that described in the first case, but he had very wisely not waited so long as I had done, and her condition was, therefore, decidedly better. As Sir James Grant had asked me to try elevation of the pelvis, so as to empty the engorged uterine sinuses, the first time I had an opportunity of doing so I suggested this treatment to Dr. Springle, who consented on condition that if she were not better in twenty-four hours we should not delay any longer. The next day there was no improvement; she had been wandering during the night, and her temperature was very low, so arrangements were at once made to empty the uterus, which was done that afternoon by me, with the assistance of Drs. Springle and Kenneth Cameron. The patient being anesthetized, the external genitals were rendered thoroughly aseptic, as was also the vagina and cervix. The latter was dilated rapidly at first with Wylie's, and afterwards with Goodell's dilator, a dull-wire curette was swept around the interior of the uterus, and the ovum seized with a pair of forceps and withdrawn in two or three pieces. A sharp curette was then passed carefully several times all over the uterine cavity until the whole of the mucous membrane had been removed. The uterus was then carefully packed with iodoform gauze, which was left in for two days. I did not see this patient again, nor did she require any further treatment after the gauze had been removed. She was kept in bed for two weeks and made a perfect recovery. I subsequently learned from her physician that she became pregnant again, and required the application of the same treatment.

Case 3.—Mrs. D., age 23, sent me an urgent summons on the night of the 15th July of this year. She gave me the following strange history: She was engaged in a tin-can factory where she earned a scanty living, her husband having deserted her a few months after her marriage, four years ago. In order to increase her revenue she sold her honor, with the result that on the 15th April she discovered that she was pregnant. On the advice of some fellow-workers she took gin and cloves and other herbs in large quantities without effect, until she was advised by another woman in the factory to pass a stick of solder into the womb. This had the desired effect, apparently, for her periods came

on in great abundance. At the same time she began to vomit. Both the flow and the vomiting became so severe that she was alarmed, and consulted Dr. —, who prescribed hot douches, which stopped the hemorrhage, but the medicine he prescribed had no effect upon the vomiting. She then tried another physician, who attended her for several weeks, during all which time she continued to vomit steadily. She then went back to her first physician, who again tried everything possible in the form of drugs without any effect. By the middle of July, when I was sent for, she was in a very serious condition. She was exceedingly emaciated, her pulse was almost imperceptible and very rapid, being difficult to count. The basin beside her bed contained a quantity of dark green vomited matter, and she looked so much like a person who was soon about to die that she received the last rites of the Catholic Church. On examining the uterus I was convinced that it was not empty, but on telling her this she assured me that she had passed a large mass which she was convinced was the child. She received rectal enemas, which no doubt prolonged her life, but she vomited just as much when she took nothing by the stomach as when she took water or milk. A few days more were spent in trying some other drugs; what seemed to give her most relief from the constant nausea being a mixture of bismuth, hydrocyanic acid and morphia.

The relief from this, however, was only temporary, the longest cessation of vomiting being three hours. By the 23rd of July she was evidently sinking fast. The family was then told that nothing but an operation would give her any chance, and their consent being obtained, I asked the physicians who had attended her to assist me to empty the uterus. I told them that I believed that the foetus was still there and keeping up the vomiting. They were quite sure that this was not the case on account of her having had such a severe and prolonged hemorrhage. I omitted to mention that she had no fever, no bad-smelling discharge; in fact no other symptoms beside emaciation and a pulse of 140.

Here comes in a curious rule of the Catholic Church which almost prevented my esteemed colleagues from assisting me. The rule on this subject as laid down by Monseigneur Guerin in