

injury which a woman in good health but with a contracted pelvis might easily have recovered from, is fatal to her. It is probable, however, that even in these cases there will be one hundred per cent. of recoveries as soon as the whole mass of family doctors have been educated up to the point of abandoning entirely the *accouchement forcé* and of religiously refraining from doing any injury to the soft parts.

The other class, namely, those with placenta praevia, which is fortunately a very rare one, but which until a few years ago had a death rate as high as forty per cent. in Europe and ten in America for the mother, and much higher for the child, when treated by rapid delivery, now gives a mortality almost *nil* when delivery takes place by Caesarean section.

With all these improvements taking place, we are justified in assuring a woman with a deformed pelvis or with albuminuria or placenta praevia that she and the child run less risk from delivery by Caesarean section than by any other natural or artificial process, and that if she should become pregnant again and if any of these three things should happen for the second time, which they are not very likely to do, she can be delivered again and again by Caesarean section, with little, if any, greater risk than that of an ordinary confinement. So that if the patient and her doctor leave it to us to do as we think right, we will not sterilize her. But what shall be our attitude if the woman demands to be sterilized, so as to be saved from the inconvenience or expense or the slight risk which some might claim for the operation? I am inclined to think that in that case we are justified in complying with her request; not by removing the ovaries, but by taking out an inch or so of the uterine end of the tube and sewing the peritoneum over the interstitial part.

Vaginal Caesarean section has the great objection of taking valuable time when every minute counts; for, after cutting the cornu, you still have to do an *accouchement forcé* with all the danger of sepsis.

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