

but these accidents are no longer to be feared in the hands of operators of experience and with our present rigorous asepsis.

In this short paper I propose only to call attention to the symptoms, and especially the more obscure ones, by which this condition can be recognized. We must suspect its presence, and then search for it by a vaginal, preferably a bi-manual examination, whenever a woman comes to us with the following symptoms:

1. Bladder troubles manifested by frequency of micturition caused by the pressure of the cervix against the neck of the bladder. When the fundus goes backwards the cervix, as a rule, points forwards.

2. Troubles in the rectum, either pain during defecation or obstinate constipation even when the patient's bowels have been made liquid by means of purgatives, the uterus acting as a rubber valve, the more the woman bears down the tighter it closes. Sometimes there is dysentery or rectal tenesmus due to the pressure of the heavy fundus on the rectum which ends by ulcerating it; even when there is nothing in it the patient feels as if the bowel was full. This is one of the obscure symptoms and must be searched for, as the woman will, as a rule, tell us that she is constipated, and it is only by questioning her that we will ascertain that her movements are liquid. When this condition of the stools is present, we will surely find either a stricture of the rectum or obstruction from the retroverted fundus.

3. Disorders of the brain and nervous system. The great sympathetic nerve, contrary to the cerebro-spinal system, has its brain at the lower end of the spine, just about the place where the retroverted fundus will lie upon it, so that with every movement the woman makes, the great sympathetic receives a blow or impression which is conveyed to the brain, causing headaches and neuralgias in other organs, the heart, lungs, liver, stomach and bowels. More than once I have had patients who vomited constantly until the cause was discovered in a retroverted uterus, the vomiting stopping at once on replacing the displaced organ.