

the bowels, or of the womb, cancer, tumour, anything but the real cause. *That* her God, herself, and her physician know—but the public know it not.

To give a sample: thirty-four cases of criminal abortion, of which the history was known, are reported by Tardieu, a French physician; *twenty-two* were followed by death.—(*Dr. H. R. Storer*).

Of course death does not always follow. If every woman who aborted died, the funeral bells would never cease to toll. But there are other results which make life a burden, and death a welcome visitor. Diseases of women are so prevalent in this age that the treatment of them has become a specialty with many physicians. There are journals devoted to that alone. Every college has a lecturer on that branch, distinct from other diseases. And the majority of these cases in married women can be traced to abortion. The public cannot discover this; but the physician in his confidential relations with his patient, and his necessary investigation of the causes of her complaints, sees it daily. He finds directly traceable to abortion, displacements of the womb, tumours, abscesses, cancers; and in their train, "lame backs, supposed to be consequent on spinal disease; neuralgic breasts; disabled limbs, pronounced affected with sciatica, cramps, or paralysis; impatient bladders, from whose irritability the kidneys are supposed to be diseased; obscure abdominal aches and pains, which often unjustly condemn the liver or the ovary: constipation, which is thought to argue stoppage from stricture or organic diseases; intractable headaches, that resisting all forms of treatment, are supposed to indicate some incurable affection of the brain; easily deranged stomachs, so suggestive of ulceration or malignant disease; general hypochondria and despondency, that of angelic dispositions make shrews, and sometimes even suicides."

Does this look over-drawn? Physicians *know it to be true*, and they alone can judge. And it is quite natural that these evil results should follow. Nature does all her work in order, and as perfectly as we will let her. Pregnancy and labour are physiological functions, intended to be harmless—beneficial. While one is progressing the other is in preparation; and it is only when the first is completed that she is ready for the second. *Then* to a healthy woman labour is harmless; but to induce labour before the system is prepared for it is to interfere with nature's arrangements, and to cause a disturbance which she is often powerless to overcome.