*boundless space* or *in the beginning*. It may be given us to explain much that is now mysterious, but it will only be done by honest, faithful work, not by the methods of so-called Christian Scientists, but by the labors of those who will enter the great field of research work into nature's laboratories and the special laboratories for research.

## APPENDICITIS IN RELATION TO PELVIC DISEASES AND PREGNANCY.\*

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That no machine is stronger than its weakest part is an axiom which may be accepted without argument. Our beloved and revered Oliver Wendell Holmes described a machine which was so well constructed that it had no weakest part and which all went to pieces at once; but that was a poetic license. As a matter of fact the axiom is true, and were it not for some weak link which breaks first every chain would hold forever.

The human body is the most complicated piece of machinery that has ever been constructed, and were every part used as nature intended it to be there would be no weakest part and it would go on working much longer than it does. But unfortunately owing to changes from the natural to the artificial modes of life there are some parts of it less used than others, and these parts become the weakest ones. Although we have fallen into the erroneous habit of speaking of work as being a cause of disease, we will generally find on closer analysis that it is really idleness of an organ that kills it. If we walk on our legs they become stronger, but if we hire another man to carry us his legs become stronger and ours become weaker. If we masticate our food from childhood up we will have a jaw big enough to hold all our teeth and the latter will be sound; but if we have our food masticated by machinery, or if we swallow it without mastication at all, our jaws will become smaller so that there will not be room for our teeth, while even if some of them are removed so as to make room for the others, the latter will

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<sup>\*</sup>Abstract of paper read before the American Gynecological Society, Niagara Falls meeting, May 24th, 1905.