

considerably impaired health and energy. She had hardly congratulated herself, however, upon her good fortune of restored health, when to her dismay the swelling, which even after tapping had never entirely disappeared, gave evident signs of progressive growth, and in the course of time she had to be again tapped, and again, and again, till at last having lost heart with her intractable malady, she made up her mind as a final resort to come to this city and seek further advice, and if of any avail to place herself under further medical treatment. It was at this juncture that I was called to see her.

Mrs. M. is a remarkably plucky and intelligent woman, and though, owing to her Highland origin, she could hardly express herself in English, yet she gave so clear and connected an account of the origin and progress of her trouble, that at the end of our first interview, she left me fully satisfied as to the probable nature of her malady. I accordingly expressed to her freely my opinion, and directed her to seek further advice. She now placed herself unreservedly under my guidance. I, therefore, called my friend Dr. Fulton to see her, who, after a very careful and most thorough examination, concurred fully with me in all particulars. We now were fully satisfied that nothing short of an operation would be of any permanent avail to the unfortunate woman, and we told her plainly our opinion, but to make assurance doubly sure, we determined to tap her, and that for two reasons. In the first place in order that by means of a chemical and microscopical analysis of its contents, we might obtain a more accurate knowledge regarding the nature of the growth before us; and secondly, that by removing from the internal organs the excessive pressure to which they had been so long subjected, and waiting till the collection had partly re-accumulated, we might place our patient in the most favourable possible condition in order to a successful operation. We therefore drew off some forty pints of a highly albuminous straw-colored fluid, which, as it slowly trickled down in thick ropes towards the end of its flow, left no doubt whatever in our minds—if indeed there existed any—as to what lay before us. We sent our patient home to her friends with the understanding that in a few weeks she was to return in order to undergo the operation, with the full dangers of which we made her fully acquainted.

On the 14th of Sept. last, having completed her preparations, Mrs. M. intimated to me that she was now ready. On our arrival at her residence we found our patient in as good a frame of body and mind, as we could well wish, for such an occasion. Having made all things ready in the largest and most airy apartment in the house, we called for Mrs. M., who walked bravely into the room, and while Dr. Fulton turned round to place a stool for her, she sprang without its aid on the table, and took her position! Dr. Geikie having soon placed her under the influence of chloroform, I made the usual incision through the integument, commencing immediately below the umbilicus and carrying the scalpel as close to the symphysis pubis as practicable. The under-lying layers of tissues were then carefully laid open with the aid of a director, and as the growth was exposed, while Dr. Fulton was about to grasp it with a tenaculum, our patient was suddenly attacked with a spasmodic fit of coughing, which for a moment threatened to give rise to a rather embarrassing complication. The cough fortunately soon subsided, a canula armed with a rubber tube was now introduced into the cyst, and while its contents were emptying into a vessel, we, by means of gentle and steady traction, presently succeeded in extracting the whole mass. The pedicle was now brought into view, through the centre of which two large arteries were seen coursing towards the cyst, which they enclosed with their terminal countless ramifications as in a net. Between these bloodvessels as close to the root of the pedicle as practicable, I introduced a needle armed with a well waxed stout silk cord, and, having divided the loop, the instrument was withdrawn and the pedicle safely secured with a double ligature, each half embracing one of the bloodvessels. The cyst was now carefully severed and withdrawn. The other ovary with appendices, uterus, and other organs, as far as practicable, were examined and found to be in a perfect condition. All the exposed viscera were now wiped clean, with a delicate new sponge, of all blood stains, and having made sure that all bleeding was fully arrested, what was left of the tied pedicle was now returned, and the external wound well closed with a sufficient number of silk sutures and dressed with dry lint. The patient made a speedy and complete recovery without ever evincing the least untoward symptom.