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## Original Communications.

### HEART DISEASE FROM AN OBSTETRICAL POINT OF VIEW.

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The subject of heart disease is very interesting to the obstetrician from many points of view, particularly in connection with marriage, pregnancy, and labor. I desire to consider some of these points in their practical or clinical aspects.

*Should a Woman with Valvular Cardiac Disease be Allowed to Marry?*—I think the answer to this question should be yes, with certain exceptions. Of course, in a large proportion of cases, probably the majority, the physician is not consulted in the matter. Frequently the refusal to sanction a marriage makes no difference in the course of events. I know one case where a young woman was married contrary to the advice of her physician; but, when pregnancy promptly followed, the young bride and her mother fully realized the serious aspects of her condition, and asked a physician to induce an abortion. When called in consultation I refused to consent to any such procedure on account of the absence of serious symptoms. This young woman is now the mother of two healthy children, aged 3 and 1 respectively, and is herself enjoying fairly good health.

In naming the exceptional symptoms which should change the answer from yes to no, I cannot do better than quote from Hanfield Jones: "If there are any serious symptoms of cardiac disturbance present, or attacks of dyspnea, breathlessness, palpitation on exertion, or hemoptysis, marriage should not be sanctioned." I have for some years entertained the opinion

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