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## Original Communications.

### NOTES OF SIX CASES OF REMOVAL OF THE OVARIES AND FALLOPIAN TUBES.

By E. H. TRENHOLME, M.A., M.D., B.C.L.

Professor of Gynecology, Medical Faculty, University of Bishop's College.

The importance of the subject of removal of the uterine appendages leads me to briefly report six cases in which the operation was performed for the relief of pelvic disease and suffering, where no other form of treatment had been found satisfactory and where the condition of the patients was such that not one of them had any future for which to live.—I may say that while the symptoms varied with each case, yet the general features were of a common character, and all more or less directly referable to the monthly molimen. These six operations were made during the year ending first of April, 1884, so that 1½ year has elapsed since the first of this series occurred and half a year since the last. This delay has been caused by a desire to have the effects of the operation made known, so as to have some fair idea of what changes and benefits, or otherwise, had resulted. The mere report of such operations, even when recovery results, affords but little information for those who wish to study the subject; while it is manifestly unfair to return a case as cured simply because the patient did not die from the operation itself. I consider this operation as in some sense yet upon trial: the data for its performance and the exact class of cases where we can safely predict a successful issue are not sufficiently established. If this contribution helps toward this result my chief object will be gained. It is only by the report

of such cases and unsparing critical discussion that the truth becomes apparent; and here, as well as in all cases, what we want is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. As one of those who has devoted some attention to the treatment of diseases of women I fancy my own experience in dealing with some of these cases is similar to that of many others. The ordinary uterine displacements, the so-called ulcerations of the os uteri, with induration and enlargement, and even uterine myoma are varieties of disease easily recognized, and for the most part not difficult of cure. But all is different when disease of the appendages co-exist with that of the body of the organ itself. Here our caustics, alteratives, pessaries, and every form of medicinal treatment, fall short of effecting any special benefit to the poor sufferer, whose days are shortened by the misery of her life.

This desperate state of hopeless despair so pressed itself upon me that some ten years ago I ventured to tread in a new path, in the hope of affording relief to suffering and to the saving life. The fact that in this class of cases the activity of the sexual functions was the exciting cause of the intense suffering, whether accompanied by severe hemorrhages or interference with the organic functions of life, led me to resort to the removal of the uterine appendages for their relief and cure.

The sphere of this operation is being enlarged to embrace certain forms of mania. Some time ago Dr. Goodell reported several cases where it had been resorted to for mental derangement with marked benefit.

One of the following cases was of this character, and the result has been most gratifying—The