

should be deceived into a fool's paradise, while their physician, whom they trust to save them when they could be saved, quietly stands by and with the friends becomes a conspirator to hide their danger from them, until it is too late to escape it. How can she hold out her hand for help if she does not know that she is in danger. I for one decline to place such a responsibility upon my conscience or to become a plotter against her life, as I would be if I knowingly and willfully concealed from her the one fact that she had cancer of the womb, and the other that vaginal hysterectomy would save her. I shall never forget the remorse of a medical friend who brought me a patient with a large cancer of the uterus with the broad ligaments infiltrated with the disease which he had been treating with caustics for six months, and which was then too far advanced to permit of hysterectomy; looking me straight in the eyes he asked me whether, if he had brought her when he first discovered it, I could have saved her, and I was obliged to answer that I believed I could have done so. He only replied, "I will never forgive myself," and from the tone in which he said it I believed him. And yet he only lost her life through unintentional ignorance of her true condition and not through willful deceit, and he was not therefore anything like so much to blame.

In what I call the second stage the cervix is invaded, the broad ligaments are full of cancerous tissue and the lymphatics are infiltrated with it. The patient is alternately being drained of her life blood by irregular hemorrhages, which she attributes to the change of life, and poisoned by the absorption of decomposing and gangrenous material, which keep her in a burning fever. Her presence, moreover, is made loathsome to her friends by reason of the foul smelling discharge. And yet she does not know that she is a hopeless case of cancer of the womb. Why tell her? Because we can prolong her life, diminish her suffering, and not only thus make her life endurable to herself but render her unoffensive to her family by a thorough use of the curette and cautery. Under an anesthetic we can do all this without any danger or causing any pain, and in a few days she will feel so well that she almost doubts the accuracy of the diagnosis which she has to