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Original Articles.

ABDOMINAL OPERATION FOR THE RELIEF OF UTERINE RETROVERSION.

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Hippocrates used posture for reducing uterine displacements by fixing the body to a ladder which was held with head down while the uterus was replaced by manipulation. "He further advised that when the uterus did not remain in its proper place, but goes from side to side, it occasions pain. When the patient is in bed on her back the uterus remains in place, but if she rises it slips down. Rest, astringent fomentations, and the raising the foot of the bed, are steps to be employed in the treatment. Then we should take a pomegranite, its shape being chosen to suit the parts, and we should divide it down through the umbilicus into two halves. Then warm it in lukewarm wine, after this thrust it as far as possible (into the vagina) and then bind the patient with a large sling bandage, which restrains it below and prevents it from slipping out, and so it can fulfil its office."

Thus we have described the first astringent pessary worn for uterine support, and from that time down through the centuries the pathology and treatment of this very common disorder of woman improved but little.

S. D. Gross, one of the ablest surgeons that America has pro-

*Read at annual meeting of British Columbia Medical Association, in August, 1906.