

then the foetus was seen and removed, a wire clamp was passed round the root or base of the tumor, and a drainage tube was passed into Douglas' pouch; there was little or no hæmorrhage, but a considerable amount of shock, and the patient succumbed the following night. The uterus, placenta, and other parts removed are at present being dissected, and the result I hope to make known to your readers at some not very remote period; but I may incidentally remark that the foetus, a full grown and remarkably fine male child, was not in the least offensive or decomposed, but entire and in a very good state of preservation. There was no doubt about the pregnancy being tubul, and altogether the case was a very remarkable one amongst these fortunately rare cases. Whether an operation if performed earlier would have been more successful, what share the syphilis had in impairing the mother's health, and what was the cause of the peritoneal inflammation, are problems that require a good deal of solving. The length to which gestation extended, the remarkable state of preservation in which the infant was, and the very great state of emaciation to which the mother was reduced, she was quite a skeleton, are very remarkable features in this very remarkable case. I omitted to say that the specimen referred to in November, 1882, was sent to the museum of the Royal College of surgeons, and is, I believe, the only perfect specimen in that or any other museum.

LONDON, 60 Haries St. W., April, 1887.

### GYNÆCOLOGICAL REPORT.

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#### VICARIOUS MENSTRUATION.

A most interesting discussion aroused upon this subject has lately appeared in the *British Medical Journal*. Dr. Barnes read a paper upon the subject, which was marked by his usual ability, and in which he related a number of cases illustrative of the views generally held, and currently accepted as to the truth of vicarious menstruation.

Dr. Wilkes, who was present at the reading of the paper, by invitation of Dr. Barnes, made a remarkable address in reply to the views advanced, and expressed his adherence to views he had already advanced, as to the sure existence of vicarious menstruation. Dr. Wilkes said his scepticism as to the existence of an affection, long

accepted and taught by lecturers and writers upon diseases of women, arose from personal investigation of the supposed cases, in every one of which he found that the positive assurance of patients and friends as to the periodicity of the bleeding was erroneous. This statement was followed up with an examination of the cases reported by authors, in which he brings before us their paucity as to numbers, and more liability as to fact. This quite startles one, but, nevertheless Dr. Wilkes' position seems well taken, and he can only be dislodged therefrom by the force of authentic and carefully reported cases. So far, he says *no one* has "given a straightforward and simple case of a girl bringing up blood every month, of the truth of which there could be no reason to doubt the accuracy." After referring to the view of some, that amenorrhœa is a substantive disease, he expresses his opinion that in an enormous majority of cases, it is a symptom and a consequence of disease elsewhere; not only is the outward discharge wanting, but as the physiological process itself is in abeyance, there is no room for the process of so called vicarious menstruation. In conclusion, Dr. Wilkes says he does not deny the disturbance which often takes place during the menstrual period, and that an hysterical woman would spit up blood, or that an ulcer of the leg might put on a different action; but that this is different from saying that the processes connected with menstruation take place through the leg.

#### ANTISEPTIC IRRIGATION.

Dr. Cushing has drawn the attention of the profession to the importance of vaginal irrigation in all operations upon the womb. He states that the vagina is a very hotbed for bacterial colonies, and that in a great many cases, even in the best society, an old and unnoticed gleet in the husband has given rise to a mild and forgotten gonorrhœa in the wife, so that gonocci and other pathogenic germs may abound in the vagina, ready to be carried into the uterus on the sound, or get into any abrasion or cut made by the surgeon. As the sublimate solution, which is the best for destroying the bacteria, does not keep well in water, it is best to prepare it fresh daily. For private practice, lozenges, containing 7-13 grs. of sublimate, combined with ammon. chlor., make a quart solution of 1-2000. For hospital use 3ij corrosive sublimate to 3i glycerine keeps well, and by mixing 3j of this solution with two quarts of water gives 1-2000.