

any other organ except the ovary, but, the rate of increase was so great, and her powers of life were so much diminished, that I at first declined to operate, until urged by herself and friends to give her the only chance left of prolonging her life. "It is true," says Mr. Bryant, "that a surgeon is sometimes led to perform an operation in almost desperate cases, when suffering is severe, and death is certain if the patient is left alone, although the scientific probability of saving life is almost nil, such as in neglected hernia, in certain examples of amputation for disease or accident, in the ligature of a vessel, or the excision of a tumor." Under like circumstances, a surgeon may be called upon to perform ovariectomy, when a patient is evidently being worn out by the disease, and by it alone; when life's tortures are not worth prolonging, and death can be calmly looked at and even wished for; when there is a scientific possibility that, on the removal of the local disease which is clearly destroying life, the powers of the patient may rally, and that at any rate relief from suffering will be secured; under such conditions an operation may be admissible. "Under certain circumstances, consequently, the surgeon may be justified in performing ovariectomy with the object of giving relief, when only a scientific possibility exists of doing more, in the same way that he may be justified in doing any other operation, with the same object and a like slender hope."

CASE 7th.—Miss S. S., *æt.* about 40, of dark complexion, very dark hair, and general healthy appearance; had always enjoyed excellent health until about two years ago, when, without pain or any apparent cause, she found herself increasing in size, more particularly in the lower part of the abdomen. About this time the catamenia became irregular, sometimes profuse, sometimes scanty, although they returned at their regular periods and without pain or suffering.

Twelve months ago she was attacked with very severe pain in the left hypogastric region, which continued for some time, but ultimately yielded to the free use of opium. The pain was of a very acute kind, and spread across from the left to the right side low down in the abdomen, and was supposed to be of an inflammatory character by the medical man in attendance. The following month it returned again, very severe for a time, and like the former attack was soon relieved, although not so com-