

fixation of the uterus, may for these reasons be disappointing in their results.

In the management of displacements by many practitioners mistakes are often made in overestimating the usefulness of pessaries, in the selection of cases suitable for their employment, in the selection of a pessary for a particular case, and in the neglect of the very frequently necessary preliminary treatment of the patient and the parts against which the pessary will lie. Ofttimes too, there is lacking an adequate conception of the necessary care of a patient who is wearing such an appliance. The consequence is that appliances, which in suitable selected cases are undoubtedly most useful, suffer undue and unmerited discredit.

The sensations of the patient which suggest to her mind displacement of the uterus and which are apt to be accepted by the inexperienced physician, are often due solely to vaginitis. This condition, when of the fundus of the canal where it is often mainly or exclusively present, can only with ease or certainty be diagnosed and treated by the Sim's method of examination. This method of examination, it would appear, is learnt by only a small proportion of those who practice gynecology. It requires the patient to lie on a table in the necessary position, to have her clothing loose, and to breathe quietly and naturally. All these conditions being fulfilled, the use of the Sim's speculum is merely an accessory, for the bent handle of a pewter spoon or even the finger will sometimes suffice to retract the perineum and posterior vaginal wall and expose the now distended vagina, the result of atmospheric pressure acting under altered relations of abdominal and pelvic organs. A careful examination by this method (which, I contend, should be practiced in every case with pelvic symptoms) will often lead to the discovery of a degree of vaginitis, which can be most satisfactorily relieved by a few applications of silver nitrate solution.

Perhaps no more common mistakes are made than in the diagnosis of pregnancy, and all will bear me out when I attempt to emphasize their importance. Of the effect of such mistakes on the reputation of the practitioner, I feel sure that some at least here present are prepared to bear me out. Failure in the recognition of existing pregnancy is rarely pardoned by a woman. Failure to discover that she is performing the supreme function of her sex, and to give her credit for it, is to her a grievous fault. Apart from this there is the obvious importance of early knowledge of the fact in order that plans may be made and necessary arrangements put in train. The cases are few in which a diagnosis cannot be made by a careful investigation of history, symptoms and physical signs, negative and positive. I must, however, not forget to admit that we are not always freely admitted to possession of each of