

within the os externum, is kept in place by it, and keeps the uterus straight and extended, so that it has no tendency to force out No. 2. In ordinary cases, if there are two tents in the os internum, and one in the os externum, the two ora will be about equally dilated when the tents are removed; because the os internum is much more contratile than the os externum. When a laminaria tent is removed it often looks as if a string had been tied round it at the os internum, while the os externum has left little impression upon it. There is, therefore, no risk of a tent being incarcerated by the os externum.

Before attempting to introduce No. 2, No. 1 should be withdrawn by the string, till it slightly projects from the os externum, otherwise the point of No. 2 will hitch against the base of No. 1. Provided care be taken to keep the point above the inner os, it can be easily replaced by the finger, as soon as No. 2 is *in situ*.

During the whole time that the uterus is being dilated the vagina should be syringed with warm antiseptic lotion about every three hours. This lessens the risk of septicæmia, eases pain, and facilitates dilatation. It is well also to thoroughly syringe the vagina each time that the tents are changed. This is done most safely with the help of a speculum.

I think that the best instrument for introducing sponge tents is a simple stout spike with a shoulder to prevent the tent from being jammed upon it.

Sponge tents are often very disappointing, dilating the cervix largely, and leaving the os internum in *statu quo*. The base swells first and draws the point out of the inner os. This may be prevented by a disposition somewhat like that recommended for laminaria tents.

But some of the most annoying difficulties connected with tenting occur when the tents have to be withdrawn.

The loop of silk which the instrument-makers attach to the tent for this purpose is usually so short and thin that it is seized with difficulty, and breaks if the tent is held at all firmly by the uterus. A piece of whipcord, sufficiently strong, but not clumsy, should always be substituted. It should be long

enough to reach one or two inches out of the vagina. This will save the surgeon a good deal of trouble, and the patient some pain.

Sometimes, however, when the os internum is very rigid, the string will tear out of the tent, and there have been cases in which the tent has broken in halves at the point of constriction. Of course, the only plan in such a case would be to dilate with another tent (which would be rather difficult), and then remove the incarcerated piece of the first one with forceps. But the accident is easily avoided by simply altering the manner of attaching the string. Let a hole be bored through a hollow laminaria tent, about half an inch from the point. Let the two ends of the string be passed inwardly through this hole on the opposite side of the tent, and brought down through the hollow of the tent. The middle of the string will then go half-round the tent on the outside, and the ends will hang out at the bottom. There cannot then be any difficulty in removing the tent, if the string be reasonably strong. It will not at all readily cut through the tent, because it is placed across the grain. Nor does it, so placed, materially increase the difficulty of introducing the tent, if carefully drawn quite tight.

A similar difficulty occurs much more frequently with sponge tents. The string, as usually attached at the base of the tent, easily tears out. As a rule, under like circumstances, a laminaria tent may be readily removed with forceps. But sponge seized with forceps easily tears, so that the tent has to be removed piecemeal, the operation being more like a complicated case of craniotomy than anything else.

Thomas and others recommend that the string should be passed through the tent lengthwise. But then, if the os internum were much contracted, the part of the tent above it would be bulged out by the downward pull taking its bearing from the point, and so the resistance would be increased. Under these circumstances, it is not at all unlikely that the string would now and then tear its way out.

I have successfully used the following plan. The string is passed through the tent, about half an inch from the point. Half an inch