

at forty-five instead of getting less. The result has been that gradually, year by year, I have been getting these cases earlier, until now it is the exception; rather than the rule, to find, on removing the uterus, that the disease had not yet entered beyond the uterine tissue, and consequently these women have all been saved from a horrible death. In these cases, of course, most rigorous precautions have been taken to avoid infecting the healthy cut surfaces; first the vagina and external genitals are thoroughly disinfected with soap and water and bichloride; then the cauliflower growth is cut off, and the uterus curetted and disinfected with carbolic acid, and then cauterized with the Paquelin cautery, until dry; the cervix then being packed with sterilized cotton and then tightly sewed up. Many such cases which would have been ultimately saved have died through reinfection during the operation.

And now I come to the last advance; one which, as I have stated, will save every woman so treated from death from cancer. Several times during the last ten years I have had occasion to perform Schroeder's amputation of a badly lacerated cervix of long standing, in women over forty-five years of age; and during the operation I have found the tissues friable and brittle; so that the ligatures would sometimes cut out. Much to my disappointment some of these women afterwards died of cancer. I therefore came to the conclusion that in all women over forty-five who were bleeding profusely or irregularly I would take no chances, but head off the fell disease by removing the 'whole of the uterus!' I felt the more justified in doing this because of the number of cases I have seen in which the cervix was apparently all right; but, on opening the uterus after removal, undoubted cancer of the fundus was discovered. In Cullen's work on cancer of the uterus there are many engravings which illustrate my point, which he evidently believes in very thoroughly. I have already said in several of my papers on cancer of the cervix, that if every woman with a lacerated cervix had it repaired within a year after its occurrence, death from cancer of the cervix would be unknown. (It is not safe, I might mention here, to let these women go around with a bad laceration until they are nearly forty-five; for sometimes