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Original Articles.

MISSED ABORTION.

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Medical literature upon the subject of "Missed Abortion" is exceedingly scant. I presume this is accounted for by the comparative rarity of its occurrence. In my own practice of eighteen years I have had, to my knowledge, three cases. I do not know whether this is above or below the average frequency.

CASE 1.—The first of my cases dates back to 1895. The patient was a multipara, aet. 30 years. She menstruated regularly until October, when her menses, which should have recurred October 11th, did not appear. At Christmas (ten weeks after she missed her period) she had a sharp uterine hemorrhage, but did not call a doctor. The blighting of the ovum probably occurred at this time. After this she had a slight flow at irregular intervals, consisting, as she described it, of menstrual fluid (improbably so) and blood clots. On May 11th, about five months after the period of "missed abortion" probably began, she had another rather profuse hemorrhage, after which I was called in. I found the os dilated and only slight oozing of blood when I arrived. The following day, after removal of the vaginal gauze packing, a body could be seen presenting itself at the external os. It was easily removed with a pair of uterine dressing forceps. It consisted of a mass 2 1-2 inches in length, rolled upon itself. Unfolding it, in the centre, there was a small membrane, but the embryo had become absorbed or extruded. The patient made an uneventful recovery.

CASE 2.—Mrs. B., nullipara, 30 years of age, five years married, anaemic, menses regular, but scant; menstruated June 2, 1902, then

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