

though some withdrawn from Douglas's pouch; fourth day sponge and tube removed; fifth day enema to act on bowels; seventh day some sutures removed, eleventh day the balance. Patient now (May 20th, 1882), twenty-five days after operation has not had one unfavourable symptom, is sitting up some every day, eating heartily, gaining in strength, and feeling in every way comfortable.

These cases constitute the last five upon which I have operated, and have been selected as having occurred subsequent to my first witnessing the use of the cautery by Mr. Keith, of Edinburgh, in the early fall of 1880, though, through the kindness and courtesy of London surgeons, it had been my privilege previously to see ovariectomies by Spencer Wells, Bryant, Bantock, Thornton, Sydney Jones, Carter and Croft.

In the four successful cases above narrated Baker Brown's Clamp was employed till after the cauterization; and the satisfactory progress in these cases endorses the views held by Mr. Keith so strongly in favour of the cautery. In these four cases I believe Lister's antiseptic treatment was in every respect faithfully carried out. The fatal case was a very severe one, and might have terminated fatally, even if antisepticism in the treatment had been perfect, which, I regret to say, though through no fault of my own, it was not.

One is a little surprised at the slight elevation of temperature and pulse following the tearing asunder of adhesions and the return into the pelvis of the tissue embraced between the blades of the clamp, killed and so dried by the cautery on the surface of the clamp as to resemble in colour and thinness a fish's fin, one quarter inch wide and two or three inches long.

In each instance ether was administered and it is satisfactory to know that in none of the cases was there any unpleasant disturbance of the stomach, a fact which may, in part, be attributed to the absence of food from this organ for many hours preceding and following the operation. Bleeding points were secured with carbolic catgut ligatures or by torsion.

The pelvis in some instances was very care-

fully sponged, so as to leave it as far as possible perfectly dry.

Drainage was provided for by the use of perforated glass tubes through which any fluid in the pelvis could pass up to be absorbed by the sponge, or withdrawn by the syringe, and through which, in addition, carbolic water could be injected, and subsequently removed.

In closing the external wound, deep sutures of silk-worm gut, and superficial intervening ones of catgut were employed, though I believe silk thread boiled for two or three hours in a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid, and kept in the same, might answer just as well, as no suppuration whatever will take place around the threads beneath the antiseptic dressings. In the management of this class of cases a few other points of importance upon which stress may be laid are here simply enumerated:—

Antecedent tonic treatment, selection of suitable, roomy apartment, well lighted, well ventilated, and wholly free from draughts, of capable assistants at the time of the operation, of trained attendants subsequent to it, the maintenance of an equable temperature, the utmost cleanliness in every particular, and the minutest attention to details; perhaps more than any anything else in the utmost cleanliness of the hands, and the conscientious and intelligent antiseptic management of the sponges before and during the operation. No hand not perfectly aseptic should touch a sponge; no sponge not perfectly aseptic should ever be introduced into the living human abdominal cavity.

In these remarks, and in the treatment of my cases, I claim nothing new, and only urge what has already been more forcibly insisted on by the great ovariectomists of Europe and America.

The *Dublin Journal of Medical Science* says:—"It is related of the late Earl of Derby, who was a martyr to gout, that on one occasion a merchant sent him a supply of sherry, informing him that as long as he confined himself to it he would continue free from his enemy; to which the statesman laconically replied that 'he had tasted the sherry and preferred the gout.'"