

examination I was unable to discover the foetal heart-beat, and found that the breasts, from being enlarged and turgid, according to patient's statement, were soft and flaccid; other indications also pointed to cessation of uterine activity. The general rule being that two weeks after the death of a foetus it is aborted, and finding the patient in good health, with nothing existing to justify interference, I advised waiting for further indications. An interval of several months now elapsed and I was again consulted regarding the non-progress of gestation. It was quite evident now that since last interview no growth had occurred in the uterine contents, the size of the tumor being about the same, if anything it was smaller. Vaginal examination showed the os to be undilated, although somewhat patulous. Uterus was uniformly enlarged, such as would still be not inconsistent with a four months foetal growth. At this time, say seven months after what was believed to be conception, there did not exist a single symptom calling for interference beyond this, that if conception had taken place, and the patient was right regarding the foetal movements, it was certain growth had ceased during the past three months, and consequently a dead foetus existed in utero. I was naturally surprised at not hearing from the patient long before this with evidence of the onset of a miscarriage, but the only symptom at all attributable to her condition was an occasional hardening of the uterus, which was readily noticed, the hard, round tumor being very plainly shown through the thin abdominal walls. No hemorrhages had ever shown themselves at any time. General health continued unimpaired, and still adhering to the expectant treatment, I advised further delay. As long as nothing existed calling for action on my part I felt that, notwithstanding the time that had elapsed, any day might bring evidence of uterine expulsive efforts. The risks attending the artificial emptying of the uterine cavity being greater than what attended the present condition and the expected natural expulsion, I inclined to wait further, warning her that at the first appearance of any unfavorable sign to at once notify me. During the next few months and in my absence from town I heard nothing further from her, but in September