

and with the concurrence of the three practitioners then in attendance, a trocar was plunged into the tumour; no fluid followed the puncture and on withdrawal, the canula was seen to be blocked by fecal matter. I was informed by my friend, Dr. Dabbs, who had charge of the case, that this proceeding, which at the time he regarded as almost a fatal error, exercised a markedly beneficial effect, probably by allowing the escape of gas. The hectic almost entirely subsiding with an abatement of all other urgent symptoms. Troublesome tenesmus, however, soon occurred and on the 10th of March, I received an urgent telegram. On consultation with the medical men in attendance, I found that they had abandoned the idea of the swelling being an ovarian tumour and from the fecal matter on the trocar, inclined to the belief that it was caused by an accumulation of feces. Having searched vainly for any precedent to this case, I, for the first time, weakened on my diagnosis, and thinking the tenesmus might be caused by rectal accumulation, I introduced my finger, but the examination caused such intense agony, I had to desist without being able to arrive at any conclusion. Not being able to obtain a speculum, and being compelled to return to town that evening, I undertook to forward one and induced our patient to submit to its being used. On the following day I was again sent for. I found that on attempting to introduce the speculum a shred was seen to be hanging from the vagina. On examining this closely, I found just inside the orifice of the vagina the point of a foetal parietal bone. Feeling sure that the case would terminate fatally within twenty-four hours unless immediate relief were afforded, I determined, at all hazards, to extract the offending mass. The patient being anaesthetised, I carefully introduced a large speculum into the vagina dilating the instrument, I brought away a parietal bone, and a little higher up met with other portions of the skull, which were readily extracted, keeping the sharp edges in contact with the blades of the instrument. To the left of the cervix I observed a mass presenting, and laying hold of it with a long bullet forceps, the clavicles

and scapulae came away, then getting a firm hold of the sternum I gradually brought forth the trunk and limbs of a full grown child, much decomposed and saturated in feces. The vagina was well syringed and other antiseptic precautions taken. The patient made a good rally and I left her the following day comparatively comfortable. A large rent was observable to the right of the cervix and for some days all fecal matter passed per vaginam, but this gradually contracted, eventually closing, and in a few months this lady was in the enjoyment of her usual health.

I have been unable to find a similar case to this on record, and as an example of what nature can endure and accomplish it may not be without its moral at the present time. This case occurred over twenty years ago, and I may add the lady is still alive and in the enjoyment of good health.

[NOTE.—The above case in the practice of the editor of this journal was recorded in the London *Lancet*, some years since.]

EXTRA-UTERINE GESTATION.

A. S. GUBB, M. D., IN LONDON MED. RECORDER.

If one were guided by what is to be found in the text-books of gynaecology, it would be supposed that the difficulty of dealing with the condition of ectopic pregnancy lay rather in the treatment than in the diagnosis, the latter being based apparently on the recognition of certain quasi-pathognomonic signs and symptoms. It will be a shock to practitioners who have not already had the fact brought home to them by inglorious experience that, as a matter of fact, the diagnosis of an uninfamed and non-ruptured extra-uterine foetation during the early months is difficult and even impracticable. Symptoms of a kind to excite suspicion are often entirely wanting, and, if present, are likely to be attributed to other and far commoner pelvic diseases. Mr. Tait, stated the other day that in all his experience he had only seen one such case prior to rupture, and then he had singularly failed to arrive at a correct diagnosis,