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## Original Communications.

### STERILITY CURED BY AN OPERATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF URETHRAL CARUNCLE AND DILATATION OF THE CERVIX UTERI.

J. J. CASSIDY, M.D.

The following case is reported from my case-book:—

March 1, 1885.—Mrs. L., aged 28, has been married five years and has never been pregnant. Before marriage she suffered from painful micturition and pruritus vulvæ. These symptoms were intensified after marriage, and coitus was so painful that it was rarely attempted. She received treatment at different times and for considerable periods from four physicians of this city and one of St. Catharines. An operation (ablation of caruncle probably) was performed on her by a Toronto surgeon; but the painful micturition was not cured and she did not become pregnant. She also suffered from uterine leucorrhœa, dyspepsia, irregular menstruation, constipation, and hysteria.

March 2—A physical examination revealed a caruncle projecting at the meatus urinarius. The urethra was very sensitive, and bled at the least touch. When the uterus was drawn down straight with a vulsellum, the uterine sound passed easily to a depth of three inches. There was endocervicitis. There being no stenosis of the cervix uteri I determined to treat the patient primarily for

urethral caruncle, and secondly, to dilate the neck of the womb, in order to relieve the endocervicitis, and increase the chances of her becoming pregnant. The patient was chlorotic, having just menstruated, after having missed three periods. The treatment consisted in first snipping off the caruncle. After the bleeding had stopped, a 4 per cent. solution of cocaine was rubbed over the interior of the urethra, and this was followed by the application of solid lunar caustic. The caustic was used because the urethral mucous membrane was ulcerated. Why it should be so was not very clear, but about the fact there could be no doubt.

March 11, 14, 17, 25, 31—The same treatment was repeated, the application of the caustic, owing to the previous use of cocaine, causing little or no pain. She informed me that micturition was much less painful than it had been for many years before.

April 4—Desiring to make a thorough exploration of the urethra, the patient was anæsthetised, and her urethra dilated by an aural speculum with expanding blades. The portion of the urethra, near the meatus externus, was found to be in a fairly healthy condition; but the internal portion was eroded. Lunar caustic was freely applied to the diseased part. A uterine dilator was then introduced into the cervix uteri, the blades fully expanded, and withdrawn. Caustic was also rubbed over the interior of the endometrium.

April 7—The patient had remained in bed, but felt very little pain.