

when passed up behind it encountering a *cul-de-sac*, as if the uterus, with the exception of its orifice, were inverted. Hemorrhage was not excited by the examination, but a rather abundant blood-stained purulent leucorrhœa. The patient was at once admitted into the hospital, and on the 29th the diagnosis was established by the following means:—

1st. The uterine sound carried round the pedicle of the tumour encountered resistance to its further passage all round at the distance of half an inch. The finger, though introduced easily behind the tumour, could not be passed in front of it, as the anterior lip was too closely in contact with it.

2d. The fingers introduced into the rectum could without much difficulty be carried above the fundus of the tumour, showing that the body felt pervaginam was not an out-growth from the uterus, but the uterus itself in an altered position.

3d. If while one hand was in the vagina the other was pressed firmly over the symphysis pubis; at first, no body was felt between the two hands. Pressure made against the tumor in the vagina, however, brought it before long within the grasp of the other hand, when it was possible, through the thin abdominal walls, not only to distinguish its contour, but even to perceive the circular depression in its upper part which indicated the point of inversion of the womb.

Dr. Tyler Smith's case suggested an imitation of his proceedings, and, accordingly, after efforts made with the hand by grasping and compressing the womb to restore its position, or at least to render it more yielding, an air-pessary was introduced into the vagina and inflated to as great an extent as the patient could bear. On the following morning the os uteri was found much more dilated, and its tissue much more yielding, so that the fingers could now be passed all round the tumour with ease, and everywhere discovered the inversion of the substance of the womb. Manipulation of the inverted uterus was repeated daily until the 5th of September, and the pessary, was on each occasion reintroduced and reinflated, with the exception of one day, on which it was discontinued, in order to obtain relief for the bowels.

It did not seem, however, that much was gained by the proceedings beyond that increased dilatation of the os which was obtained by the first introduction of the pessary. The vaginal walls, indeed, were rendered more yielding by the extension to which they had been subjected by the pessary, so that the whole uterus admitted of being pushed up in the pelvis more readily than before, but no change was effected in the relation of the inverted body itself. A very offensive leucorrhœa had been excited by the pessary, and its distension had occasioned a very painful stretching of the vagina; but in spite of this the patient's health was already much better than at the time of her admission; she had already gained strength, and her complexion had lost something of its sickly hue.

I now attempted to modify the instrument, and had a pessary constructed so as to expand at its upper third more than elsewhere, in order to avoid needless stretching of the vagina; while it was fitted, by means of a wire stem, to a girdle which encircled the body in order to obtain a fixed point from which the pressure should act; a condition altogether absent in the air-pessary as at first employed.

This was first tried on September 20, the patient having remained since the 5th without any attempts at the replacement of the organ. Some advantage seemed to be gained by the pessary thus modified. It retained its position well, and seemed to produce less discomfort, and to cause a less profuse and less offensive discharge. Still it did not appear to exert any influence on the uterus itself, its force being rather expended in stretching the vagina.

After a few days' trial, I accordingly removed it, and had another constructed of smaller dimensions, under the impression that if it were introduced within the os uteri and there inflated it was more likely to expand the uterine walls, and thus to replace the organ than by any mere pressure exerted from below upwards against the fundus of the womb. On October 3, this new apparatus was introduced for the first time, and though no effect was produced in the first twenty-four hours, it was reintroduced on the