

“What effect would the operation have upon future pregnancy and parturition?” This question I could not satisfactorily answer from personal experience up to that time. I have since been informed by the attending physician of a few of the cases I had operated on, that they had confined their patients without any unusual complication. But I was anxious to have personal experience of this nature with a few of these cases. The opportunity presented itself to me some months ago. I was thus enabled to make some valuable observations during the progress of labor.

The first case of which I will speak had borne three children within the space of six years. She had been in very poor health for some time past, and was a subject of all the reflex neuroses which accompany a badly lacerated cervix complicated with chronic metritis and profuse purulent uterine leucorrhœa. A few months after the operation she regained her health and became again pregnant. She was carefully watched during the pregnancy, as she had suffered two miscarriages before the operation. It was interesting to observe the effects of the operation in this direction, whether it would have a tendency to favor the occurrence of the accident or otherwise. In this case no pregnancy ever progressed to the end more favorably. The observations made during the progress of labor were indeed interesting. Labor had just begun when I made the first examination. The pains were extremely light, and it seemed to me as if several hours might elapse before attendance would be required. On introducing my finger into the vagina I was surprised to find the bag of membranes distended to complete fullness occupying the vagina, and nothing else to be felt. There was no evidence of the usual resisting ring through which the membranes protrude; nothing, in fact, could be felt but this boundless bag of water containing, high up, the head. I ruptured the membranes, and before I could remove my coat the foetus was expelled. The placenta presently followed, but the uterus remained a little soft. External manipulation was kept up for some time, still there seemed to be a want of reflex irritability about the organ. I introduced my hand into the cavity, but found no