

DR. JAS. B. HUNTER of New York stated that vaginal extirpation of the uterus with ligatures was the most difficult operation in uterine surgery, and that undoubtedly the employment of forceps would do much to shorten and render more easy the performance of the operation. He said there was as yet a difficulty in this matter, and that was the want of the right kind of forceps. He used those of Richelieu as modified by Polk, and thought them the best as yet made. Spoke of one case requiring thirteen pairs of forceps, which were removed in forty-eight hours. He thinks they secure good drainage. Does not close the wound, wraps forceps with gauze, and uses no drainage tube. Thinks the forceps of whatever model should be very strong; considers thirty minutes sufficient time for the operation.

DR. REAMY thinks it is impossible to sufficiently compress the broad ligaments with one pair of forceps on each. The blades ought to completely enclose the stump. Dudley's forceps are too small and weak. He does not think vaginal hysterectomy at all a dangerous operation, certainly not more so than ovariectomy.

DR. LANE of San Francisco (by invitation) said he was the first surgeon in America who had performed vaginal hysterectomy. He had in all operated fourteen times, uses strong cord as ligatures, and never used forceps. Dr. Lane stated that he considered vaginal hysterectomy *the* safest capital operation in surgery. In his fourteen cases he had only one death. He had found the operation more difficult in very fat women, and comparatively easy in very thin women. He spoke of the danger of wounding the rectum, which happened in two of his cases.

DR. H. MARION SIMS of New York read a paper on *The Importance of the Microscope in the Treatment of Sterility in Women*. Dr. Sims' essay was, upon this important subject, a most valuable and interesting one, delivered in a manner full of earnestness and gentle modesty so characteristic of that gentleman, and so pleasant to listen to. The principal features brought out were in regard to cause and treatment. The author laid stress upon the abnormal condition of the secretion of the cervical canal as a cause of sterility, and impressed upon the surgeon the necessity of not discharging his patient as cured until