

## VARIOUS OPERATIONS.

A great many operations, some 50 in number, have been devised for correcting retro-deviations of the uterus. Some of these are worthy of mention, although many of them have practically fallen into disuse.

The operations of vaginal fixation of the uterus, operations upon the anterior and posterior vaginal walls, and operations done *through* the anterior and the posterior cul-de-sac on the utero-sacral ligaments and the round and broad ligaments, do not properly come within the range of this paper so will only receive a passing notice.

We now come to the consideration of the two most reliable operations employed for the relief of these backward displacements of the uterus, the two which have successfully stood the test of time and experience, and the two which receive greatest prominence in our most recent text-book literature. I refer to (1) Alexander's operation of shortening the round ligaments and to (2) ventro-suspension of the uterus. Most, if not all, of the other operations are only on probation, while many have been distanced in the race or fallen by the way side.

Bland Sutton<sup>5</sup> in the 1904 edition of his work says, "*Hysteropexy* and the operation for *shortening the round ligaments* are the two principal methods of dealing with this condition."

Penrose<sup>5</sup> in his work of 1904 says, "The two operations that have deservedly met with the greatest favor are *ventro-fixation* or *ventro-suspension* of the uterus . . . . . and Alexander's operation."

Dudley<sup>6</sup> in his book of 1904 mentions (1) Alexander's operation, (2) abdominal hysterorrhaphy, and (3) vaginal hysterorrhaphy.

Garrigues<sup>7</sup> in his Gynæcology of 1905 only mentions (1) Alexander's operation, (2) vaginal shortenings of the round ligaments, (3) shortening of the round ligaments from the abdominal cavity, and (4) ventro-fixation, or suspension of the uterus.

Montgomery<sup>8</sup> in his text book of 1900 says, "The operations for the correction of the retro-displacements of the uterus consist in manipulation of the natural ligaments, such as the shortening of the round ligaments, which may be *extra-peritoneal* or *intra-peritoneal* ventro-fixation of *suspension* of the uterus, and *vaginal operations* for fixation.

Reed<sup>1</sup> in his text book on Gynecology of 1901 includes the various operations under three headings, (1) shortening the round ligaments, (2) ventral fixation or *suspension*, and (3) vaginal fixation.

Herman<sup>9</sup>, of London, in his work on Diseases of Women, of 1898, mention three surgical methods of dealing with retro-deviations of the uterus, (1) vaginal fixation, (2) Alexander's operation, and (3) ventral fixation.

You will observe that all the authorities quoted mention Alexander's operation and ventro-suspension of the uterus, while some add other operations to the list.