

Selected Articles.

The Operative Technique of Vaginal Hysterectomy.

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THE TYPICAL OPERATION.

Uterus of Normal Size, Non-adherent or Slightly Adherent.

Instruments:—A perineal retractor, two lateral retractors, a pair of strong scissors, two traction forceps, six long forcipressure forceps, a thermocautery.

The perineal retractor being in position upon the fourchette, the operator seizes both lips of the cervix in a traction forceps and drags down the uterus as far as possible; then, holding the forceps vertically in his left hand, he draws the neck toward the pubis, in order to place the posterior *cul-de-sac* well upon the stretch; the two lateral retractors assist in exposing this region. With the thermocautery in his right hand, he makes a semi-circular incision upon the posterior surface of the neck, after which the assistant on his left takes the traction forceps in order to free the left hand of the operator. The latter then catches, with a long dissection forceps, the lower edge of the incision made by the thermocautery, and continues the dissection into the deep tissues, still by means of the cautery, which he holds as close to the cervix as possible. The opening up of the posterior peritoneal *cul-de-sac* is rapidly done and is greatly assisted by the use of the fingers.

The traction forceps are now drawn vertically toward the fourchette and a semi-circular incision, the ends of which should unite with those of the first incision, is made upon the anterior surface of the neck with the thermocautery. The dissection of the cellular tissue is accomplished by means of the finger, which should separate the bladder and the ureters by a "to-and-fro" movement; the lower vaginal portion of the cervix also being completely dissected from its attachment to the cellular tissue by the same means. The peritonæum, which appears at the bottom of the wound, is caught up by the operator and incised with scissors, the opening being further enlarged by the fingers.

The index finger is now introduced through the open pouch of Douglas and examines the body of the uterus and the condition of