

**REMOVAL OF A MALE CATHETER FROM THE FEMALE
BLADDER.**

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In the latter part of July last, I was called to see a young married woman laboring under unmistakable symptoms of vesical calculus. Her sufferings were extreme; she was compelled to spring out of bed in my presence, get on the chamber-vessel, and strain violently. For relief from these sufferings she had resorted to large doses of morphia. There was nothing obscure in the history of the case. I was told that, five months before, she had broken off a piece of a catheter in her bladder. In reply to my inquiries as to why she was using such an instrument, I was told it was for "drawing her water." As she was about five months pregnant, others may believe as much of this explanation as they please, and I shall do the same. She had been under the care of three different practitioners since the accident happened, to one at least of whom the same story had been told as above, as he had assured the patient that it would soften and come away with the urine.

Physical examination yielded abundant evidence in confirmation. A large and irregular mass was readily felt up behind the pubes, by the fingers in the vagina, and a silver catheter introduced through the urethra came in contact with a foreign substance in the bladder.

Had not her sufferings demanded relief, her approaching labor would have necessitated the removal of the foreign body; and on the next day I proceeded to operate. I first attempted gradual dilation of the urethra, by packing the canal full of sea-tangle tents, intending to follow them with tents of compressed sponge; but the pain and distress occasioned compelled me to abandon this plan; it was impossible for her to bear the tents but for a few minutes. I then placed her under chloroform, and dilated the urethra with dressing forceps, and, after two or three trials, dragged out, with no little surprise, an entire gum male catheter of medium size, and measuring nine and a half inches in length! I had caught it near one end, but, in its softened condition from maceration, it readily bent close on itself, and came out thus doubled. The bladder was full of putty-like, cal-