

lives by it. He thinks it a very dangerous instrument, the use of which should be extremely limited. I know of one general practitioner who does not believe in specialists in general, nor in gynecologists in particular, who, by attempting to put up a fixed and retroverted uterus with the sound, not only perforated the uterus but also tore open a sealed up pus tube, with the result that the patient immediately developed a general peritonitis, and died three days later. Although I use the sound less and less, as I am more and more able to diagnose the size and position of the uterus by bimanual palpation, I still use it occasionally in clearing up the diagnosis when the whole pelvis is filled with a solid mass. When I am in doubt whether the mass at the back of the uterus is a pus tube and ovary or a retroflexed and retroverted uterus, I very gently try which way the sound enters. But, if there is the slightest difficulty in introducing it, my invariable rule is to stop at once and to make the best diagnosis I can without its aid. The experienced gynecologist is the only one who can use the sound with safety, and he is the one who requires to use it least. Dr. Gardner finds that mistakes in diagnosing displacements of the uterus are the most common ; I can also endorse this statement and can remember a great many cases which have come or been sent to me because they could not endure a pessary, which was inserted for a supposed retroversion of the uterus, but which on examination I found not to be a retroversion at all, but, on the contrary, a pair of diseased tubes and ovaries cemented into Douglas' *cul de sac* and against which the pessary was pressing. Dr. Gardner also calls attention to the importance of diagnosing displacements of the kidney. This is emphasized by some experiences of my own, for, after removing both tubes and ovaries and the vermiform appendix and performing ventrofixation, much to my disappointment the patient has still complained of reflex symptoms which were at once removed when I had discovered that the right kidney was displaced, and fastened it up. He thinks that mistakes are often made in the diagnosing of pregnancy, and he mentions a case where a woman had been tapped several times for a supposed ovarian cyst when all the time she was pregnant. While agreeing