

such a serious condition as this should be for so long a time, neglected and its victims allowed to perish without receiving any assistance whatsoever. In nearly all the emergencies that arise in our profession, striking results were frequently obtained. For example, a bleeding vessel through which life's blood was fast ebbing away and blanching the features into paleness, could be ligated and the restoration of the tissues would be resumed; a gangrenous limb that was rapidly decaying could be removed with success; the wild tangled and luxuriant frenzy of the madman could frequently be restored to health and reason. In the more active and fulminating varieties of nervous conditions, where the mind would reel, rock and splutter from its centres of delirium, rest, quietness, seclusion and sedatives in many instances re-established them to normal conditions. It was not so with the subject of ectopic pregnancy. Until a comparatively short time ago these cases received little or no assistance, and were allowed to perish without any effort being put forth to save them.

How grudgingly merit is tendered to its rightful possessor. The narrow-minded bickerings of narrow minded men in withholding fame or applause to ability was never more fully exemplified than on this identical subject, but now that the ashes of the great man have been gathered to his fathers, let us hope that other minds shall sit in judgment, and that the memory and reputation of this same man shall stand pre-eminent and proud for rescuing from the thralldom and teachings of the ancients and placing it upon a firm,

scientific and surgical basis the whole subject of ectopic pregnancy.

The reputation of Robert Lawson Tait is not my individual inheritance. Its defence is not confined to my special care and keeping. It is the common property of the medical profession. They should prize it highly and guard it well.

Before entering more fully into the etiology of ectopic pregnancy, it would be well for us for a few moments to consider some of the conflicting, confusion and more or less inconsistent teachings that have prevailed in regard to normal pregnancy and more especially in regard to menstruation. Now, I ask you, gentlemen, what are some of these teachings that have been inculcated into our young and tender minds during our college days? On this subject I refer you to your physiologies, your embryologies, and your numerous books on obstetrics. There you will find that the following teachings have been handed down from one textbook to another with unerring fidelity. They still haunt our textbooks and our college halls. There are three points that I wish to direct to your attention this afternoon in regard to these teachings; First, it is announced that ovulation occurs once a month and is the cause of menstruation; second, that menstruation consists of the shedding of the mucous membrane of the uterus, accompanied by four to six ounces of hemorrhage; third, that normal pregnancy takes place in the Fallopian tubes. Let us review these subjects for a few moments. Time will not permit me to enter upon the subject so fully as I would desire upon this occasion. Taking now the first proposition, namely, in regard to