Fourth step The sutures introduced in the third step having been tied, additional interrupted sutures are introduced to unite the vaginal wound from side to side; this suturing is continued to a point near the urethra, when most of the redundant vaginal wall will have been taken up; there will usually remain, however, the lower portion of the cystocele, and perhaps some urethrocele, which cannot be disposed of by bringing the margins of the wound together from side to side, but can be taken up by uniting the remaining part of the wound in a transverse direction.

Even at the risk of prolixity I repeat that it is essential to remove the entire thickness of the vaginal layer of the vesico-vaginal septum.

Contraindications to Elytrorrhaphy.—Elytrorrhaphy is usually unnecessary, and therefore contraindicated, in descent of the first degree. The special province of the operation is in complete prolapse or procidentia, when associated with cystocele. The operation further is contraindicated by tumors and adhesions which render replacement and retention impossible, and in diseases of the uterus or its appendages, which demand their removal. When such contraindications do not exist, elytrorrhaphy and perineorrhaphy in a majority of cases are quite as effective, and therefore to be preferred to the more dangerous and mutilating operations of hysterectomy.

2. *Perineorrhaphy and Posterior Colporrhaphy.*—As already stated, it is most important to appreciate the fact that in nearly every case of procidentia the lower extremity of the vagina is displaced backward. This is consequent upon subinvolution of the pelvic floor, and especially upon subinvolution or rupture of the perineum or of some other portion of the vaginal outlet. Unless, therefore, the posterior wall of the vagina and the perineum can be brought forward to their normal location under the pubes, so as to give support to the anterior vaginal wall, the latter will fall again, will drag the uterus after it and the hernial protrusion (cystocele and prolapse) will be reproduced. The treatment, therefore, of procidentia must always include an adequate operation on the perineum, or, more comprehensively speaking, upon the posterior wall of the vaginal outlet. The operation must be performed so that it will carry the lower extremity of the vagina forward to the normal location close under the pubes; then, if the anterior colporrhaphy has been adequate and has carried the upper extremity backward, the whole vagina will have its normal oblique direction, and its