

# Selected Articles.

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## OPERATIONS TO PRESERVE THE UTERINE APPENDAGES.\*

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THE first case presented to-day will probably afford an opportunity to demonstrate a procedure with which many of you are no doubt familiar, namely, the enucleation of a cyst from an ovary, leaving the sound portions of the organ. Those of you who have been here for the past two years are familiar with the reasons for the attempt to preserve the sound portions of diseased ovaries when it is feasible, and you have had many opportunities of witnessing from your seats in this amphitheatre the various steps required in such an operation. The principle involved in the attempt to preserve ovarian tissue lies in the belief that among women in general, especially the young and those who are married, ovulation is essential to their mental and physical well-being, and therefore an attempt is proper, in appropriate cases, to preserve as much of the ovaries as is compatible with safety to the patient's life.

The objection has been made that these operations are unjustifiable, as they seem to tamper with the life of the patient ; but you must not forget that the mortality of abdominal section, in the hands of a competent operator, is to-day reduced to a point which makes the procedure one of so little risk that the above criticism is robbed of much of its force. We will not attempt to discuss this bearing of the question here, however, but shall proceed at once to the operation.

Section, in this case, has revealed to us two ovaries, each containing a cyst, one as large as a lemon, and the other as large as a pigeon's egg. Under the usual methods of procedure, both these organs would have been removed ; but you saw the ease with which the cysts were opened, their contents evacuated, the sac wall removed from its bed, the defect in the organs corrected, and their return to the abdominal cavity. In order that you may understand what was done, I will describe the procedure in detail. First, as to the anatomy of the structure in question : These cysts were single, there, fortunately, being none other in either organ. Their composition being identical, what is said of one applies equally to the other.

\* Clinical lecture delivered at the Bellevue Hospital, New York.