

I found the patient suffering from a severe attack of septic infection. I at once, through a Sims' speculum, passed into the uterus a large sized tupelo-tent; returned in three hours and withdrew tent, which was quickly followed by the escape of a mummified foetus. There was little hæmorrhage. I began immediately with the curette and removed a very large decidual mass; so great was the extent of adhesion between it and the uterine walls that I had to remove it in many pieces, but never left her until I was perfectly sure not a vestige or shred remained in the uterus. I washed out the cavity with sublimate solution. She made a good recovery.

I could go on, gentlemen, adding case upon case relating to this subject had I the time to make a more extensive search in the medical literature of countries other than those in which I have; but I think it would be more likely to tire than add strength to your convictions of the truths I have advanced. And to bring the question a little nearer home to each of our individual selves, suppose, in a certain case, similar to the one connected with the specimen I exhibited to this Society, and to many of those I have to-night related to you, a woman missed two menstrual periods, and had a discharge of blood shortly afterwards, which was mistaken for the return of menstruation. The husband of this woman leaves home during this supposed menstrual flow, and does not return until the expiration of six months. Then shortly after his return his wife gives birth—so he is informed by his physician—to a two months baby. Imagine the physician's surprise when he is informed by the astonished husband that "that could not be, else the child is not his, he having been away from home during the last six months." The physician tries to explain, but has to admit that, from his experience and views on the subject of abortion, the said child could not have been more than eight weeks in the uterus, *because "if any separation had taken place from the uterine wall, then the embryo was rapidly dissolved."* And upon this very unfortunate assertion alone, we can easily imagine how a painful case of litigation could ensue.