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Original Communications.

CASE OF SEVERE PROCIDENTIA UTERI CURED BY VAGINAL HYSTERECTOMY AND PLASTIC OPERATIONS ON THE VAGINA.*

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Mrs. C., aged 46, mother of 8 children, consulted me about a year ago at the Montreal Dispensary. Her condition was a pitiable one. The uterus, which had been badly lacerated at her first confinement, was enormously enlarged and at the site of the laceration the everted mucous membrane of the cervical canal was ulcerated and discharging a thick, tenacious secretion. The vagina was also very much thickened. The sound measured a uterine depth of nearly six inches. This poor woman had to work hard and stand on her feet for fourteen hours a day, and when she did sit down, her womb would stick to her clothing, and sometimes bleed freely when it was de-

tached. The womb could be replaced after some little effort at taxis, but it came out again the moment she assumed the erect position. She had suffered so much and so long that she readily accepted my proposition of an operation, provided that it could be performed at her own house, as she had a great dread of a hospital. I visited her home, and found it very small, and with an outlook upon a yard full of privies. Nevertheless, it was decided to make the best of the situation, and accordingly on the 15th May, 1893, assisted by two of my post-graduate pupils, the operation of vaginal hysterectomy was performed. It was somewhat annoying on our arrival to find that the minute instructions to remain in bed for at least one day before the operation had been disregarded, and that the patient was just finishing the scrubbing of the floor of her bedroom, and we had to wait a few minutes till this was finished and she could get into bed.

The external genitals were shaved and scrubbed with soap and water, and afterwards bi-chloride 1 in 1000, as was also the prolapsed uterus and vagina. The cervix, which was badly lacerated, was firmly

* Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Montreal.