

may be that the extinction of the term from psychological nosologies may avoid the many perplexities that are consequent upon its presence; it may be that it is practicable to include under other terms with less objectionable features all the physical conditions now attempted to be compassed by the term Monomania; and it may be possible to coin a new term that will not have the same possibilities for evil and misunderstanding.

But upon these questions there remains a reasonable doubt. For the term has been so thoroughly interwoven, not only in medical and legal literature, but in the prose and verse of English writings that its extinction is well-nigh impossible.

From a purely medical point of view, and possibly from a medico-legal point, its expulsion from classification in mental diseases may be a boon—especially in the decision of medico-legal questions—not, however, without the full consent of the legal profession and the judiciary, as well as that of the leaders in medical science.

RETAINED FOETUS AND PLACENTA.

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(*Read before the N. S. Medical Society.*)

Mrs. K—, mother of three children. Menstruated Feb. 18th, 1890. Health good, except that she suffered more than usual from nausea. On the 2nd of June she was much stouter than with any other of her children at four months. On the evening of this date while walking across the back yard she stepped into an open well, but saved herself from falling down into the well by stretching out her arms. The water was not at all near the surface. On recovering herself she found her underclothing wet to saturation, she felt some soreness in the stomach, after a night's rest she felt quite well.

From that time she rapidly decreased in size until she attained her normal condition. Neither during the accident or at any time afterwards did she lose any blood, in fact there was no vaginal discharge of any kind until the 4th of September, when there was a very slight yellowish discharge. About the first of August her health began to fail, she had chills or rather trembling turns lasting for several hours.

On the 5th of September I saw her for the first time, found her very nervous and her system generally run down. On making a conjoined examination I found some enlargement of the uterus, the cervix was small and hard, could find no tenderness. Not being able to account for the condition of affairs, I put her on a quinine and iron tonic for a few days, first, to build up my patient and secondly to give myself time to study up the case. As the result of my deliberations I resolved to explore the uterine cavity, so on the 13th I passed a uterine probe, I found the cavity six inches in length, could also detect an adherent body, but nothing free in the uterus. My examination was careful and thorough, but I did not find what I expected to find. There had been no hemorrhage at the time of my examination. A few hours afterwards uterine contractions came on, with marked regularity, which continued all night. In the morning, after an unusually severe pain, the accompanying foetus was passed accompanied by a gush of blood. The pains ceased immediately, and although put on Fl. Ext. of Ergot, no pains came on till the following day, when they set in again; after six or seven hours this mass was expelled; on vaginal examination I found this membrane filling up the cervical canal, which I removed with my placenta forceps. From this time the patient improved steadily for six or seven months, since that time her health has not been so good. The menstrual flow has been regular and normal, the flow coming on some six weeks after the foetus was expelled.

This case has been utterly regardless of the laws of Theory or Practice. Why the contents of the uterus was not expelled within a short time of the accident I don't know. Why this foetus should be so small, and the placentae so large and solid. I don't know, and what the membranes were for, three months after the amniotic liquid was discharged, I don't know.

The theory that part of the amniotic fluid was retained won't hold good, had it been so I would have discovered its presence during my examination with the sound, and had part been retained there would have been a larger foetus. Please account for this condition of things.

A MONTREAL branch of the British Medical Association has been formed.