

He strongly recommended the continuous suture for the uterine wound in preference to the interrupted, claiming that it controls hæmorrhage better, keeps the edges of the wound in closer apposition, secures earlier peritoneal union, and is less liable to tear out.

DR. LUSK of New York said that in New York there are few cases of contraction under 3 inches, consequently forceps, turning, or induction of premature labor is generally sufficient. It is in the rarer cases of less than 3 inches that the question of craniotomy or Cæsarean section comes up. There are grave, moral objections to craniotomy, and any operation will be welcome which will relieve us from such a repulsive and degrading task. Dr. Harris has shown that 75 to 76 per cent. of Cæsarean sections recover when performed early and under favorable conditions, and that even in the fatal cases, careful examination of the particulars shows that death was generally due to causes necessarily fatal. For instance, the operation has frequently been done upon moribund women as a *dernier ressort*, everything else having been tried in vain; in one case, the patient was operated on with a razor, and in another the woman was actually a corpse before section was performed, yet these cases swell the mortality records. In the early Cæsarean operations, gaping of the uterine wound was the one great danger. Porro overcame the difficulty by removing the uterus. More recently Säger and Leopold have overcome the difficulty by carefully stitching up the uterine wound and returning the uterus to the abdominal cavity. Their success is wonderful: Säger operated upon four cases, with no deaths; Leopold ten cases, with one death. In three hospitals in Germany 19 cases have been operated upon, with the loss of only one mother and no children. The statistics of Säger's operation in Europe and America to the present date are 28 cases, with 7 deaths.\* The fatal cases have been either hopeless or done under unfavorable circumstances. There are three operations now before the profession—

---

\* Dr. R. P. Harris of Philadelphia has just published in the *Medical News* some additional cases of Säger's operation, so that the record now stands—38 cases (in all countries), with the loss of 13 mothers and 4 children. The percentage of women saved is 78 (in Germany), and 68 $\frac{2}{3}$  (in all countries).