

lesions occurring during childbirth—bilateral laceration. Following an extensive bilateral laceration of the cervix we have a constant endeavor on the part of nature to repair the injury. Incumbent upon this we have hyperæmia with increased formation of connective tissue; enlarged, bulky uterus (arrest of normal involution); subinvolution, not only of the uterus, but of the broad ligaments, utero-sacral and round ligaments. The patient, through necessity, has an "early getting up"; intra-abdominal pressure has full sway, forcing the displaceable or pubic segment of the pelvic floor downwards. As this process advances, the fundus of the uterus, having no support, topples backwards and descends low down in the pelvic cavity. We now have retro-displacement, uterine congestion, endometritis, menorrhagia, leucorrhœa, and reflex neuroses in almost any or every part of the body; those affecting the head, stomach and intestines are probably the most common.

There are also two other conditions which we see following as results of a laceration of the cervix uteri. I mean incapacity for conception, or absolute sterility; and its converse, the tendency to abortion, or virtual sterility. In cases of absolute sterility depending upon this condition, it may be due to occlusion of the internal os by the muco-purulent plug resulting from the chronic inflammatory condition of the endometrium, which either altogether hinders the entrance of the spermatozoa or kills them outright by its acrid properties. There is also another factor in such cases, namely, the disturbed normal relationship of the intra-pelvic parts, caused by the uterine displacement. These conditions tend to prevent conception taking place.* On the other hand, it is strange that in certain cases the same pathological conditions render conception more easily accomplished, and facilitates it by reason of the unusual gaping condition of the cervical canal. But here in this latter case we are liable to a series of abortions, following one upon another at short intervals. The ovum grows and gradually expands the cavity of the corpus uteri. The absolute sterility has been overcome and the

* It is thought that ectopic pregnancy is often associated with backward displacement of the uterus.