

necrose, and the base of the shaving forms a little eddy for retention of discharges to decompose and set up trouble. The principal locality in which these spots of danger occur is just above the internal os. When iodized phenol or other cautery is applied, these jagged points are converted into little ulcerating pits from which septic absorption takes place, culminating in a sharp attack of pelvic inflammation. Every gynæcologist has experienced such unpleasant results after curetting when there previously existed no legitimate foundation for such a sequence, and may be accounted for in the manner I have described. This danger will always exist with the injection of fluid or the application of caustics to the interior of the uterus, and should not therefore be made a routine practice.

Now that we are cognizant of these dangers, we can see the great safety and therapeutic advantage of filling tightly the uterine cavity with a soft elastic and aseptic material prepared with iodoform suspended in paraffin. This material, prepared by Dyer of Montreal, is in advance of every other for this purpose. It can be left in for four or five days, if necessary, without the least fear of having it undergo change. There is absolutely no drain so good, and by its side pressure on the uterine walls all remnants of undetached membrane re-unite, resulting in a perfectly smooth cavity surface. The cases which are generally met with in which this dressing is applicable are:—Curetting for hæmorrhagic endometritis; with Schröder's trachelorrhaphy; in bleeding myomata; for removal of retained products after abortion, the method is especially satisfactory here. It arrests all bleeding at once, secures good drainage and induces contraction of the uterus, thus favoring rapid involution. In a case of this nature I saw recently in consultation with Dr. Gurd, I removed a large adherent placental mass. Pregnancy had ceased at about the fifth month, but the placenta continued to grow for some time afterwards. It was so firmly adherent that it became necessary to remove it in very small fragments with curette and forceps. I packed this uterus to a fair degree of pressure, and on the second day I found the gauze had all been expelled and the uterus reduced in size with firm contraction. The gauze