

causes, acting upon a uterus whose ligaments are weakened or relaxed, is liable to end in displacement downwards or backwards.

A chronic enlargement of the uterus is doubtless an additional element in the causation, if the two causes already mentioned are already in operation; but simple enlargement of the uterus, without the other causes being in operation, is probably very seldom the cause of displacement.

Habitual over-distension of the bladder should be considered as a cause of retroversion.

There are certain pathological conditions that are nearly universally present in all long-standing cases of backward displacement of the uterus: first, an enlargement of the body; second, endometritis. The symptoms vary greatly. There is usually increased muco-purulent discharge from the cervix, more or less backache in the region of the sacrum. Troublesome constipation is a common symptom, and an irritable condition of the bladder frequently prevails. Reflex symptoms, such as pain under the left breast, functional disturbance of the stomach, troublesome headaches and pain down the thighs occur in varying degrees in the larger proportion of these cases, and I know of no treatment, medical or otherwise, that is of any avail in the relief of these symptoms excepting the correction of the displacement.

The diagnosis in these cases seems to me to be so easy that a mistake should seldom be made, if the well-known methods of examination are carefully followed out; that is, the bi-manual examination without any constriction of the waist, and, if necessary, the use of the uterine sound.

The prognosis as to relief is generally good. The prognosis as to cure is uncertain, if by the term "cure" we mean that the uterus shall retain its normal position after all supports and appliances have been removed.

The foregoing is simply a preliminary to the more practical questions of how best to treat these cases; and first as to the method of re-position. So much depends upon the existing state of the parts immediately surrounding the uterus, independently of the fact of displacement, that it will be necessary to dilate