

table. For this reason it would be well to fix a piece of board across the top of it so that she could not get her head beyond the other end. The feet may hang from the end of the table and rest upon two chairs, or better still, a hardwood foot rest can be easily added on each side, which can be slid out a distance of one and a half feet, to rest the feet on; but I repeat again, a thorough examination of the pelvis can only be made when the patient's pelvis projects over the edge of the table. Neither need you expect to make a thorough examination with one finger only. Many abnormal growths in the pelvis are moveable and slide away from the finger, and thus elude detection, but with the other hand press gently but firmly upon the abdomen just above the brim of the pelvis until it meets the internal finger, when nothing of consequence can be there that would escape your notice. Two fingers in the vagina give much more information than one, and you will be surprised to see how little difference it makes to the patient. You not only can get farther up with them, but may often gently catch the cervix between the two and lift the uterus up towards the outside hand, thus determining its size and position, as well as the presence of pregnancy and fibroid growths. After having noticed the condition of the uterus, slide your fingers into the posterior cul de sac of Douglas, where an ovary may be felt—you will know whether it is an ovary or not by the sickening feeling which the woman will express on the slightest pressure of it. On moving the fingers forwards again on either side of the uterus, with the outside hand still pressing the abdomen down, you will feel the slightest abnormality in the broad ligaments, as also enlargements of the tubes, whether from hydro, pyo or hæmato salpynx or tubal fetation. In making such an examination it is well to keep up a constant conversation with the patient in order to distract her attention and thus relax the abdominal walls. If you cannot thus relax them, or she cannot do so voluntarily, then no examination

is complete, especially in stout subjects, without an anæsthetic. You will sometimes feel with the internal fingers a rough and nodular condition of the cervix, if the patient is 45 or 50 years of age; if the meno-pause has come some years before, and if your examination, gently conducted, causes bleeding, then you may be on the look out for cancer of the uterus. Without causing bleeding, you may find the cervix nodular and enlarged, and in putting your finger before and behind it, you will be able to hook it on the anterior and posterior lips, each offering the form of a trumpet mouth; and on drawing the anterior and posterior lip together with the two fingers, you will find that they can be approximated. This is evidence of a lacerated cervix, with cystic degeneration, owing to the prolonged exposure of the cervical glands, which were never meant to be exposed at all. This rolling out and exposure of the cervical mucous membrane used to be considered and treated as ulceration of the neck. On introducing a cusco speculum the torn lips can be still further everted, and a stringy mucous may be seen extending up the canal. This is an evidence of endo-cervitis. Sometimes the lips of the cervix are enormously enlarged. In stabbing them to the depth of an eighth or a quarter of an inch an ounce or two of blood may be got to flow out of them. At the same time the diseased cysts are punctured and emptied of their acrid secretion. Tampons of cotton wool thoroughly saturated in glycerine containing 10 per cent. of boracic acid should be inserted by the aid of speculum and forceps three days a week for two months when all the redness and tenderness will have disappeared. The torn edges should then be united after the removal of the cicatricial tissue in the angle of the tear, according to Emmett's method. Let me now say a few words about the preparation of these tampons. Take a roll of absorbent cotton and divide it into 70 little cylinders a little longer than they are thick. Then tie a piece of linen thread eighteen inches long