

fact that Martin, of Berlin, has seen but one case in over five thousand patients. The writer of the article upon "Malignant Disease of the Female Genitals," in the American text-book of gynecology says:—"Primary cancer of the vagina is extremely rare. In a large experience, but three cases of it have been seen by the author." During the years between 1886 and 1894, only eighteen cases of this were seen at the Berlin Frauenclinic. Labusquière, of Paris, attributes the rarity of the condition to the fact that few cases come under observation until the cervix is affected. This suggestion, however, should not be given too much weight, as many writers would report their cases to be those of primary cancer of the vagina if the cervix was but slightly affected, while the vagina showed extensive disease. In support of this objection to Labusquière's theory it should be noted that in Steele's case (4) post-mortem examination (no operation had been performed) revealed one nodule on the anterior lip of the cervix and another in the fundus, the former having been discovered when the patient was first seen. While the above is true, Labusquière is quite right in throwing doubt on many of the reports published. For example, Oliver, in the report of one of his cases, says that the patient's age was 62 years, that she had been married for thirty-seven years, and had given birth to one child. The menopause came on when she was 47 years old. Her complaint was swelling of her left inguinal glands. For the last three years, she had had occasional hæmorrhages from the genital canal and that, nine months previous to his seeing her, swellings appeared in the left inguinal region, this being followed in three months by a similar swelling on the right side, these enlargements being but slightly painful. The skin over both was puckered. Local examination revealed (quoting the report verbatim) "the anterior wall of the vagina is so extensively invaded by a firm epithelial growth, that digital examination is impossible." There was no pain in the vagina or trouble with the bladder, urethra or rectum. Now here is a patient, reported to have suffered from an extremely rare affection without a careful examination having been made either before or after death to endeavour to ascertain the true seat of origin of the growth. The patient had had hæmorrhages from the genital passage for three years, and implication of the inguinal glands and vagina, but no extension of the disease to the bladder or urethra, all of the conditions pointing much more strongly to the uterus being the primary seat of the disease than that it began in the vagina. If it had started in the anterior wall of the latter, it is extremely unlikely that it would have become sufficiently extensive to entirely block up the vagina without affecting the bladder or at