

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DETERMINATION OF THE DIMINUTION OF THE UTERUS AFTER DELIVERY.—Dr. Serdukoff contributes an elaborate article (*Edin. Med. Jour.*) on this subject, based on measurements carefully made by himself on 150 women. The mode of measurement will doubtless be objected to by some, and it is certainly open to criticism, as being inherently somewhat deficient in exactness. Dr. Serdukoff relies on external measurements, preferring these, for various reasons, to internal ones. He concludes from his investigations that involution of the uterus is not complete until the lapse of from four to six weeks. The author's conclusions are as follows:—

(1) Involution of the uterus goes on more rapidly during the first few days of the puerperal period than it subsequently does.

(2) Involution of the uterus of healthy women goes on rapidly and with regularity.

(3) Involution, where the uterus is the subject of diseases, such as metritis, endometritis, or parametritis, goes on more slowly, and this varies with the amount of disease.

(4) The permanent contraction which takes place during the first few hours after delivery is a common occurrence. When it passes off, an increase in size begins to take place.

(5) In women delivered at the full time, involution goes on more quickly and regularly than in those prematurely confined.

(6) Length of labour retards involution.

(7) In adult primiparæ involution of the uterus goes on very regularly, but more slowly than in young primiparæ. In aged multiparæ involution does not go on so well.

(8) In women who suckle their children, involution during the first four days does not go on so quickly as in those who do not nurse. But subsequently the involution is quicker, though less regular.

(9) Afterpains are not necessary to a favourable involution; in fact, we are as well without them.

(10) In order to determine the involution of the uterus, its breadth only should be measured.

(11) Involution of the uterus goes on proportionally in length as well as in breadth.

(12) Super-involution and sub-involution occur as distinct uncomplicated pathological conditions.—*Brit. and For. Medico-Chir. Rev.*

## Medical Jurisprudence.

### THE EXAMINATION AND COMMITMENT OF THE INSANE.\*

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(Concluded.)

We will suppose now that you have finished your conversation, have ascertained as much as you desire from third parties, and are ready to see the patient himself. The question will arise, in what capacity, or pretended capacity, are you to visit him? Often, perhaps I might say ordinarily, the friends have a great objection to your entering in your proper character as a physician; they are so afraid of alarming or offending the patient, and they will suggest and urge the adoption of all manner of disguises and false pretences. The patient has been raving about his immense wealth and gigantic speculations, and you are a broker come to negotiate with him, or he is a king, so you must be an ambassador from a friendly power. They will want you to personate a tailor, come to measure him for a suit of clothes, or a milkman come to solicit his custom, and they will be quite astonished if you show any wounded dignity, or decline to join in these *tableaux vivants*. Now, as a general rule, admitting of but very few exceptions, I should strongly advise you to be no party to any such nonsense. Insist upon seeing your patient, as you would see a patient suffering from any other disease, in your own character as a physician, come to examine and to help him. I have seen too many patients tricked into an interview with two strangers, invited to drive in a carriage, to sail up the river, or to visit a public institution, and only realizing their position when the key was turned upon them, not to warn you earnestly against the evil and the folly of such deceit. Apart from the humiliation of assuming such disguises, you place yourself at a disadvantage, as you have no excuse for asking the very questions which you most wished to have answered, and unless you are a clever actor you are more than likely to be discovered by him whom you seek to deceive. I remember to have been foolish enough to per-