

One year ago, while visiting the asylum, through the courtesy of the medical superintendent, Dr. Boddington, and with the consent of the husband, I made a pelvic examination under anaesthesia, finding the uterus retroverted, with dense adhesions. I could not determine either right or left ovary.

Upon the result of this examination, I recommended operative measures, but on account of conditions unnecessary to here state I was not allowed to operate until October 5th, 1898.

The patient offered no objections to taking anaesthetic, and the last words she said as I commenced it were: "You look like a preacher; I have no need for you, I have no soul." After commencing the anaesthesia, I gave place to an assistant and prepared for the operation.

Conditions found :

Adhesion of the clitoris with retention of smegma as large as a small pea. Dilated and curretted without finding any abnormality. Abdomen was then opened, and the omentum was found adherent to the parietal peritoneum for about six inches along the median line. The pelvis was one mass of adhesions, and it was with the utmost difficulty I succeeded in freeing the uterus from the sacrum and the bowels. The left ovary and tube were found in a mass of adhesions, and with difficulty were removed. Upon the right side the adhesions were so dense that I was unable even to find the right ovary.

The uterus was brought forward and ventrofixed, and the abdomen closed without any drainage. Convalescence normal; stitches removed on the twelfth day.

RESULTS.

Physical :

Patient rested well after operation; slept a few hours the first night. Second day satisfactory; somewhat restless upon the third day. Sixth day she passed several large concretions of faecal matter which appeared to have been lodged for some time in the bowel. Ten days after she experienced uneasiness in the bowel, and an examination revealed the presence of several additional concretions—one so large that it required to be forcibly broken before removal.

Patient sat up in bed beginning of third week. Physical condition rapidly improving under tonics.

Mental :

There appeared to be a marked change in the mental condition immediately upon awakening from the anaesthetic. During