

**ART. VI. *Non-existence of Vagina, Remedied by an Operation.* By  
JOHN C. WARREN, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in  
Harvard University, Boston.**

**A YOUNG WOMAN**, of twenty-three years old, well constituted, applied to me for a natural malformation of the organs of generation. On examining, I found the os externum wanting, and so far as could be judged, there was no vagina. The aperture of the urethra was well formed; the clitoris and nymphæ appeared as usual. The breasts and all the other external parts were natural; but no uterus could be discovered on a careful examination by the rectum, either by Dr. CHANNING, Dr. HAYWARD, or myself. The patient had never experienced any unusual enlargement of the abdomen.

Believing it possible that the uterus might exist, although not sufficiently developed to be discoverable by the rectum, I determined to comply with the patient's wish, and attempt the formation of an artificial passage: for this purpose she entered the Massachusetts General Hospital in January last.

The patient being placed on her back on the edge of a bed, feet each in a chair, I attempted to pass a probe in behind the urethra, but found this impracticable, there being no aperture or excavation. The forefinger of the left hand was introduced into the rectum, and a small probe-pointed bistoury employed to make an aperture in front of the rectum as near as might be in the situation of the fossa navicularis. This was accomplished, but I was disappointed in finding no cavity behind or within this aperture. It was necessary, therefore, to proceed with the same instrument, the convexity being towards the rectum, to dissect from behind forwards. In this way an opening was made sufficient to admit the point of the finger. The dissection being carefully continued in the same manner, a passage was formed about three inches long, and wide enough to admit the finger.

The bleeding was considerable; this was arrested by the introduction of a tent. Subsequently to the operation she had much fever, pain and tension of the abdomen, and suppression of urine. These symptoms gradually disappeared.

The wound was carefully dressed by the introduction of a tent daily. The suppuration was considerable; after it had subsided the tent was removed, and the passage exhibited no disposition to close.

On examining subsequently to the cicatrization of the wound, something like labia of the os uteri were discovered.

After her recovery she had some appearance like the catamenial discharge. She then left the hospital. Four weeks afterwards she was seen by Dr. Hayward; he found the aperture and cavity open, and she had had a sanguineous discharge resembling the catamenia; and he thought he could distinguish something like an uterus.

*Boston, July, 1833.*