

As she began to lose blood again, I decided to dilate the os and remove the ovum. With this view, I introduced a large sponge-tent. This I removed in six hours, but was again disappointed at finding that no ovum could be detected; while the hæmorrhage continued, and no uterine action had been excited.

Matters were now becoming serious. The patient had become very weak. Evidently the uterus must be emptied of its contents, whatever it was; and the hæmorrhage checked. After some hesitation, I decided on trying the effect of hot water, and accordingly introduced the tube of a Higginson's syringe into the uterus, and injected about a pint of water at the temperature of 112 deg. This within ten minutes induced uterine action. The pains were very sharp; and in a short time a mass, which on subsequent examination proved to be hydatids, was expelled. No further hæmorrhage occurred for about six hours, when, pains again setting in, slight hæmorrhage, followed by the expulsion of another mass of hydatids, occurred. From this time, no further trouble was experienced. The lady made a rapid recovery.

In this case, I was quite uncertain as to what the contents of the uterus might be. I had not previously heard of hot water being injected in cases of abortion; but my experience of it in *post partum* hæmorrhage was so favourable, that I resolved to try it in this case; the only other alternative being either plugging the vagina again or the continuing of the process of dilating the cervix. Either of these courses seemed to me, under existing circumstances, to be by no means free from risk.

My idea in injecting the hot water was to restrain the hæmorrhage, and I was not prepared for its acting as such a powerful stimulant to the uterus as to induce uterine action within the lapse of a few minutes. I need hardly add that I was much gratified by the result.

Since this case occurred, I have treated three cases of abortion accompanied by hæmorrhage in a similar manner. In two of these, the like results followed; namely, the exciting of uterine action and the arrest of hæmorrhage. In the third case, the hæmorrhage was arrested for twelve hours; but no pains followed. Hæmorrhage then recurring, I again injected hot water, with similar results. The ovum was not expelled till the lapse of twenty-four hours after the second injection.

Judging from these cases, I look on the treatment of hæmorrhage occurring during abortion by the injection of hot water (of a temperature not under 110 deg.) as perfectly safe; and that it is, on the whole, more reliable and satisfactory than any other method.

CASE OF UTERINE HYDATIDS TREATED BY THE INTRA-UTERINE INJECTION OF HOT WATER.

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On the 18th of December last, I was asked to see a lady stated to be threatened with a miscarriage. She was a very delicate woman, a member of a family of whom several had died of consumption, she herself having suffered from ulcer of the stomach. On my visiting her, she stated that she had reached the twelfth week of pregnancy, had that morning been attacked with hæmorrhage, but was quite free from pain. On making a vaginal examination, I found the uterus to be of the size corresponding to the three months of pregnancy, and the os very slightly dilated. I ordered an ounce of the infusion of ergot to be given every third hour, and enjoined absolute rest. Everything went on satisfactorily for some days; the hæmorrhage ceased; she suffered no pain, and felt so well that I had much difficulty in inducing her to observe the recumbent posture. On the 20th, she began to go about; and on the 21st, having stood about a good deal, hæmorrhage again set in, this time profusely. On seeing her after the lapse of some hours, I found her very weak. She had lost a great deal of blood, and it continued to flow. The os was about the size of a threepenny-piece. There were not any pains, and nothing could be felt inside the os. I decided on plugging the vagina, and recommended the exhibition of ergot.

The next morning, I removed the plug, and was disappointed to find that no portion of the ovum protruded; but the os uteri was more patulous, and something soft could be felt inside it.