

recommend to those practitioners who have not yet been in the habit of using the speculum uteri in the above diseases, its immediate adoption.

Three cases of uterine disease have lately been under my care, two organic and one functional, which had existed for many months; each had been under the care of highly respectable surgeons, both in town and country, and in neither case had the speculum been used; hence, advantage had not been taken of that means of diagnosis, valuable time had been lost not to be regained, and the local affection had been so long neglected in the two cases of organic disease, that constitutional symptoms supervened, which in one case will be fatal.

One of the most valuable uses to which the speculum is applicable is the ready means it affords for the application of leeches to the os and cervix uteri; the advantages of this mode over that usually adopted—viz., application to the perineum, inside of the thighs, or pubis, are too evident to need any remarks from me; it enables us to avail ourselves of the direct application of remedies to the diseased part, and it should be borne in mind that the os and cervix uteri are the parts which in most cases of organic uterine disease are first affected. In functional affections of the uterus, which are so frequent, depending on inflammatory action or congestion, the application of leeches by the speculum is, in my opinion, a most valuable remedy.

I will not trouble you with the minute detail of the cases above alluded to, but it will be sufficient to say that each case had existed for many months, without the practitioners under whose care they had been previously having used any local means which were at all effectual, in consequence of having neglected the use of the above-named valuable instrument; two of the cases have been since cured, and the sufferings of the other patient so much alleviated, that she speaks in terms of gratitude of the relief she has experienced from the use of leeches and other local remedies to the diseased part. The speculum I would recommend is the three-bladed one made by Weiss, which appears to have many advantages over Ricord's, or any other which I have seen.

Eastover, Bridgwater,

Nov. 24, 1842.

ON THE
USE OF THE SPECULUM IN UTERINE
DISEASES.

By JAMES COLES PARKER, Esq.,

Surgeon to the Bridgwater Infirmary.

I am induced to send the present communication to the "Provincial Medical Journal," not with the object of proposing any new mode of treatment, but to