The examination was made in presence of the "Physopathic Doctor" who first officiated in the case, and also my friends and fellow-townsmen, Drs. Joseph Murphy, H. B. Hubbard, Ira Sampson and John B. Chace; Dr. Chace assisting in the examination, and Dr. Murphy taking notes.

The following points were given by the "Physopath:"—

"The os was fully dilated at 2, P.M. The delivery of a still-born infant was immediately followed by the placenta, at twenty minutes before 9, P.M. After the exhibition of ergot, one pain caused the expulsion of the child and placenta. The character of the pains was not such as to lead him to apprehend any unnatural occurrence. The presentation was natural." "It was a dry labor," said he; "I had to keep my hand greased all the time, and it *was as much as I could do to pass it round the head of the child.*"

I should not omit to state that the child was large, weighing 11 1-2 pounds, as I was informed by the friends, on my first visit.

Query.—Is rupture of the upper part of the vagina and merely the peritoneal covering of the uterus, likely to occur during natural labor, when there has been no previous disease of the tissues involved?

RECTO-VESICAL LITHOTOMY—BOZEMAN'S BUTTON SUTURE.

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HISTORY shows that this operation (recto-vesical) dates from about the beginning of the present century. M. Sanson, in an inaugural thesis, first described the operation. Of the several methods therein laid down, M. Maisonneuve, in later years, made an important modification. These all are fully described in systematic works on surgery, and call for no special mention from us here.

From the frequent evil results and ill success consequent upon the escape of stercoraceous matter into the bladder, and infiltration of urine, preventing the cicatrization and healing of the cut, the operation became obsolete.

The discovery of the "silver wire suture," the wonderful success consequent upon its use in treating vesico-vaginal fistules in the hands of Dr. Sims and others, led naturally to a trial of it in this (the recto-vesical) operation. Accordingly, we find that, in 1859, Dr. S. first applied it in the case of a recto-vesical operation performed by Dr. Bauer, of Brooklyn. The wound healed by the first intention, in eight days, and its employment here was announced as the beginning of a new era in lithotomy. At that time we had our second patient on whom we were about to operate for stone, and we decided to give it a trial.

The following is a report of the case.

A Mr. Jones, of Corinna, Me., aged 39, of a healthy and vigorous constitution, for more than three years had been troubled with more or less pain and distress in the bladder, particularly when urinating. At the time of our first visit, he had been confined to the room, under the care of a physician, for several months, and was in a very emaciated and feeble state from protracted suffering and from a large open abscess under the throat.

Introducing carefully a sound, I detected a stone lying loosely in the bladder. Upon further examination, it was thought best to postpone the proposed operation for at least one month, with the hope that he would then be in a more favorable condition. At the expiration of this time, however, our patient was scarcely any better, and there appeared nothing to be gained by delay.

Oct. 21st, 1859, in the presence of a number of medical gentlemen, and with the assistance of Drs. Benson of Newport, and Wilson of Dexter, the patient being fully etherized, and placed in a convenient position on the left side, with the thighs flexed, I proceeded with the operation as follows:—dilating the rectum with an ordinary speculum (not having Simms's at hand, which I very much regretted), the bladder being partly filled with lukewarm water, and a sound introduced and held by an assistant, I then made out with my finger the situation and limits of the prostate gland. With a two-edged scalpel, a cut was made through its central portion and bilaterally enlarged sufficiently to enable me to introduce my index finger, when it was dilated a little. The forceps were now introduced, the stone seized and extracted without much difficulty.

The stone is of an oval form, quite hard, with a rough surface, and measures, in its long diameter, an inch and a half; in its short diameter, three quarters of an inch. I have not yet had it analyzed, so as to know of what it is composed. Six silver-wire sutures were required to bring together and coaptate the edges of the wound. Upon these I adjusted "Bozeman's button," in the manner I had seen him apply it in the case of a large vesico-vaginal fistula, operated upon by him in the fall of 1858, at the "Hotel Dieu," which united by the first intention, and was cured in eight days.

On the twelfth day after the operation I removed the apparatus, when it was found united by the first intention, save a small place in the centre. I could not be surprised at this slight failure, in view of the very unfavorable state of our patient at the time. A few touches, however, with nitrate of silver, from my colleague Dr. Benson, under whose care the patient was left during my absence, was all that was necessary, as it closed by granulation in a short time. It was observed that a sliding down of a fold of the rectum over this small opening seemed to guard against the escape of anything into the bladder while it was healing.

Our patient was obliged to keep his bed for a long time, on account of a large bed-sore on one of his hips, which was very slow

in healing. But, at the end of three months, he was weighed, and it was found that he had gained about seventy pounds, making his entire weight two hundred. Both of these patients (the first operated upon by the lateral operation more than three years since), are now in good health.

It may be important to state, in closing this report, that both of them had used, for a number of years, water from wells containing lime.

Nov. 20th, 1860.

GALVANO-CAUSTIC OPERATIONS AND LARYNGOSCOPY.

WE quote the following from an interesting letter from Vienna, published in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*:—

“Two subjects have lately engrossed the attention of practical men in Vienna—Galvano-caustic operations, the surgeons; and Laryngoscopy, the physicians. The former was introduced into Vienna by Dr. Zsigmondy, *Primär wundarzt*, or chief-surgeon in the *Allgemeine Krankenhaus*. He has been at great expense in the manufacture and improvement of Middeldorpf's ingenious apparatus, which was the first employed in this city; and he has used it very extensively in his practice. He soon convinced the profession of its manifold utility, and its applicability to all sorts of operations; and he has fairly established for it an honorable place among our recognized surgical instruments. This speaks greatly in favor of the apparatus, if, setting aside the charm of novelty which attaches for a time to many inventions, we reflect how very few new instruments are really worthy of being admitted into the surgical armamentarium. Zsigmondy has published the results of his operations with the galvano-caustic apparatus, in a series of articles in the *Wien Medic. Wochenschrift*, and has sent reprints of these papers to most of his friends. It reflects very great credit on Dr. Zsigmondy, that here, in Vienna, where the most trifling surgical matters are taken up and monopolized by eminent professors, he has been able, unaided and single-handed, to bring his system into good repute and extensive popularity in so very short a time.

“As regards Laryngoscopy, I think that this novelty has wrought more mischief than benefit in Vienna; for, ever since it was first heard of, it has been the occasion of constant squabbles and miserable contentions. First of all, the profession began to quarrel about the priority of the invention, and as to who was entitled to the honor of the discovery. Innumerable articles appeared in the medical press, containing the most contradictory statements, showing how very little the writers really knew about the subject, and evidently published by men who rushed into print for the sake of appearing as authors. The controversy has lately broken