During the past three years I have operated on two other cases of naso-pharyngeal tumors which appeared at first to be simple fibromas. The first case, A. P., æt. 13, was brought to me from Dakota, and during the course of a year and a half underwent three distinct operations, in each of which the tumor was removed as thoroughly as possible, but a portion of it which had become involved in the tissues about the pterygoid process of the sphenoid and a portion which passed into the cheek, could not be extirpated. The late Prof. Moses Gunn at one time removed the tumor from this patient's cheek; the tumor was about an inch in diameter. During the last six months of the treatment the naso-pharyngeal tumor grew so slowly that I hoped for its complete destruction, but the boy, who was in the city without friends, fell into bad company, and I felt compelled to send him home while a small portion of the growth remained. I have not since heard of the case.

The second of these cases, E. I., aged about thirteen, was brought to me from Nebraska about two and a half years ago, with a fibrous tumor which filled the left naris and naso-pharyngeal cavity. In this case the tumor was removed, partly by the galvano cautery and the steel wire *écraseur* and partly by cutting forceps. There was profuse bleeding whenever the cutting forceps were used, but it was readily checked by plugging the nasal and naso-pharyngeal cavities with a strip of gauze saturated with a mixture of tannic and gallic acids which had been rubbed up with just enough water to make it the consistency of syrup. The record of the case has been lost, but I recollect that three or four operations were done at intervals of from three to five months. Each time the growth being removed as completely as possible, though a small portion of it was doubtless left in the tissues about the pterygoid process. The last operation was done about a year ago, and I have not since heard directly from the patient whose residence I do not know. But from another patient who knew of the case, I heard recently that the boy is living and that so far as the friends can tell the growth had not returned. Though I am not certain of the result in either of these cases, I believe that it promised to be better than could have been expected from a more formidable operation.

These cases I have reported merely as an addition to the literature of this interesting subject, and with the hope of eliciting discussion which may be of much value. In the present state of our science, I believe that all of these cases which afford any reasonable hope of cure should be operated upon through the natural passages. When the tumor has been removed, if any parts remain which are inaccessible to the *écraseur*, cautery knife or cutting forceps, they should be treated by electrolysis, and thus even if we fail to

at once eradicate the growth we may hope to prolong the history of the case to the period of adolescence, at which time nature seems to set a limit, at least in many cases, to the further development of these growths, and then a cure may be effected.

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FŒTICIDE AND ITS PREVENTION.

Read in the Section on Medical Jurisprudence, at the Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, May, 1888.

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In approaching the consideration of the subject of fœticide we are at the outset confronted by two facts, both of which possess an important significance. We first note that the highest crime—from some standpoints at least—of which criminal humanity is capable, and whose prevalence doubtless exceeds the highest estimate, is of no more judicial importance, in either treatise or statute, than when the evil was scarcely known, and motherhood was everywhere the crowning glory of woman. The second fact is little less an anomaly: that in the presence and despite the elevation, culture, refinement and, more than all else, the religious training and influences operating upon and in modern social life, that in the class of society making in all these respects the highest claims, this vice has developed, the enormity and extent of which is but feebly recognized outside the medical profession.

As aiding our purpose, which is that of endeavoring to discover remedies for the repression, if not suppression, of the crime of offspring murder, it may be useful to attempt an explanation of the causes whose operation has given this crime its peculiar status or, it may be said, have prevented its having any proper legal status in the calendar of capital crimes. So intimately blended and associated are the moral, judicial and medical phases of fœticide, that its relegation to the especial realm of either the law, the church, or medicine, has never been satisfactorily agreed upon. As neither profession has felt the obligation or responsibility concerning the evil which otherwise would exist, the evil, therefore, has naturally failed to receive in any proper degree an adequate consideration. To the moralist and jurist it presents a barrier of delicacy whose sacred realm they instinctively shrink from invading. The resistless power, also, of social pride and ambition would seem to leave little hope of reform through moral agencies. The highest level of ethical profession, in the geography of the modern social world, is honeycombed by this lurking and hideous evil. The conditions insuring perfect concealment and the absolute certainty of the ignorance of the public as to its commission impart characteristics both unique and formidable to the crime. Fœticide is

also the one great crime in which the chief victim, or sufferer, is wholly defenseless and without hope of an advocate. The type of unresisting innocence, it possesses no posthumous resources whose magic wand may set in relentless pursuit of the guilty the instruments of justice.

The champions of the temperance cause, in order to enforce and prove their claims, have only to point to the living victims of dissipation. Those espousing the cause of social purity easily refer to living illustrations of the evils they seek to remove. Statistics are the weapons most feared by the foes of public good. But fœticide enjoys immunity from all these methods of attack. As this important subject is, for inherent reasons, unsuited for judicial investigation, and successfully opposes religious influences, the obligation necessarily rests upon the medical profession to propose a method for checking the fearful progress of the evil. It scarcely subverts the purposes of this paper to attempt a delineation of the diabolical attributes and features of the crime from a moral standpoint, or to essay a medical statement and description of results, both pathological and physiological, of its committal. Neither is it essential, however *apropos* it may be to the discussion, to note its social relations; how the resistless lust for fashionable dissipation and distinction has rendered barrenness essential to their gratification. The limitations of time compel here an omission of these phases of the subject, however much they deserve that attention hitherto unreceived.

Judicially viewed, fœticide has characteristics and relations which render its treatment not only delicate but difficult. Of no other crime is it true that in nearly every instance of its commission there exists ample and unimpeachable evidence of the same, which evidence is also both vital and unavailable. Until a change occurs as to the application of professional rules and tenets in giving evidence in this class of cases, there is little ground for expecting success in the prosecution of the same. Refusing to be used as witnesses to aid the State in punishing those guilty is in contravention of the chief mission of medical science, which is no less than the removal of the causes of physical degeneracy and vice. The position of medical men as witnesses in cases of fœticide is for this reason exceptional, not compelling him, as in other cases, to defend the precepts of his profession and the rights of his patients by refusing to disclose the secrets and confidence of the latter.

Fœticide no more entitles the patient to this secrecy and confidence than does small-pox or other danger to the public, the stamping out of which is the duty of medicine to perform—*per contra*, it as greatly obligates the disclosure of the same. Is it not to be feared that the assurance of medical aid and confidence if danger follows operates as a strong incentive to attempt the performance of the crime upon themselves by those de-

siring it—a practice which the profession well knows is rapidly increasing. Probably no fact is indirectly more promotive of fœticide than the absence of laws regulating medical practice; thereby enabling abortionists, disguised as members of an honorable profession, to pursue their nefarious avocation with comparative impunity. Nothing less than adultery itself can exceed the wrong inflicted upon the husband who suffers wilful betrayal of his hopes and expectations of offspring. If congenital, and hence irresponsible physical procreative incompetency is adequate cause for legal dissolution of marital relations, how much more—measured by every possible standard—is the intentional procurement of the misfortune. Added to this loss is the keenness of disappointment which near realization tends to induce. Medical men will verify this as being no fancy or rare event, as too frequently, when called to rescue the victim from her self-induced peril, has it been a duty to impart to the anxious husband the cause of the danger and the first knowledge of his already severe loss.

Fœticide as a ground for divorce of either party to the marriage contract; whether it result from guilt of the wife, on the one hand, against the wishes of the husband, or whether the husband compels the unwilling submission of the wife to its procurement, upon the other, is, in either instance, both just and practical. Penalties aimed at "abortionists" as a class of criminals are little less than valueless. The party inciting the act—its actual principal—must be made to fear the consequences. The question is worthy the most serious consideration, whether the present facilities, and the alarming extent of their improvement, for disseminating criminal knowledge of the practice, does not remove the usual objections to a popular presentation of the evil as such. That once thought unsuitable for general publicity, is now sown widely by the vultures who fatten upon the harvests.

Our young men are properly taught the evil effects of alcoholic excess—why should not young women be warned of the nature and results of fœticide? There can be, from thoughtful students of the subject, only an affirmative reply. The task of the performance of this duty rests upon the medical profession, and every prompting of interest in the welfare of our race induces the hope that medicine may not betray the trust.

Independence, Ia., April 23, 1888.

THE ARNOT-OGDEN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, of Elmira, N. Y., the gift of Mrs. Ogden to the city of Elmira, will be completed, at a cost of about \$100,000. The buildings are of brick, and it is said that the most approved methods of sanitary engineering have been employed.