

membrane. The sutures were cut short, and no provision made for their removal. By the time the sutures were all inserted and tied, the uterus had contracted very firmly.

In order to secure a free exit of the lochia from the cavity of the uterus, and thus prevent the danger of its passing through the wound, the os uteri was freely dilated with the finger, and a long flexible catheter left in some hours. The pedicle of the ovarian cyst was tied with a double ligature of plaited silk, and returned into the abdominal cavity. The ligatures were brought out at the lower angle of the wound, and left long enough to hang down between the thighs. The wound in the abdomen was closed by interrupted sutures, and dressed with a thick layer of carbolized cotton batting. The only interest connected with the future prognosis of the case is, that there was not a disagreeable symptom, except a few trivial after-pains.

Dr. Byford gives abstracts of five cases, which are all he was able to find on record, of the double operation of ovariectomy and hysterotomy, the results of which are confirmatory of the correctness of his practice in this case.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.

Poisoning of a New-born Child with Nux Vomica.

Cases of infanticide by poisoning are very rare. The following is reported in the *Vierteljahrsschrift für gerichtl. Medicin.*, vol. xxv. Children destroyed within a week of birth generally die from some form of violence which insures rapid death. A girl was secretly delivered of a child on the night of the 16-17th October. She concealed the child, and suckled it for one or two days. On the evening of the 18th October she gave it some camomile tea, into which she had put a teaspoonful of powdered nux vomica. The child had convulsions and died in two hours. The body, which had been thrown into a ditch, was found and submitted to medical examination on the 21st October. It was a mature child and well formed. Although three days had elapsed since death, cadaveric rigidity was very strongly developed in it. Around the navel there was a red circle with a commencement of suppuration. The stomach contained a teaspoonful of a mucilaginous liquid; in the small intestines chymous matter was found, and the large intestines were distended with fecal matter. The viscera of the chest presented the characters of asphyxia. There was no question here of the proofs of live birth. The experts who made the examination came to the conclusion that the child was mature, viable (*i. e.*, had a capacity to live), that it had completely and fully breathed and had died of asphyxia, not before the second day after birth. At this time the mother was unknown, but suspicion fell upon the girl; it was proved that she had been recently delivered, and a box containing nux vomica in powder was found in her possession. A chemical examination of the stomach, intestines, and liver was made, but although that process was employed, not the least trace of strychnia could be detected in the body. There was no doubt, however, that the child had died from strychnia poisoning. The girl confessed the crime