

Further observations on the use of the speculum in the diagnosis and treatment of uterine diseases / by Robert Lee.

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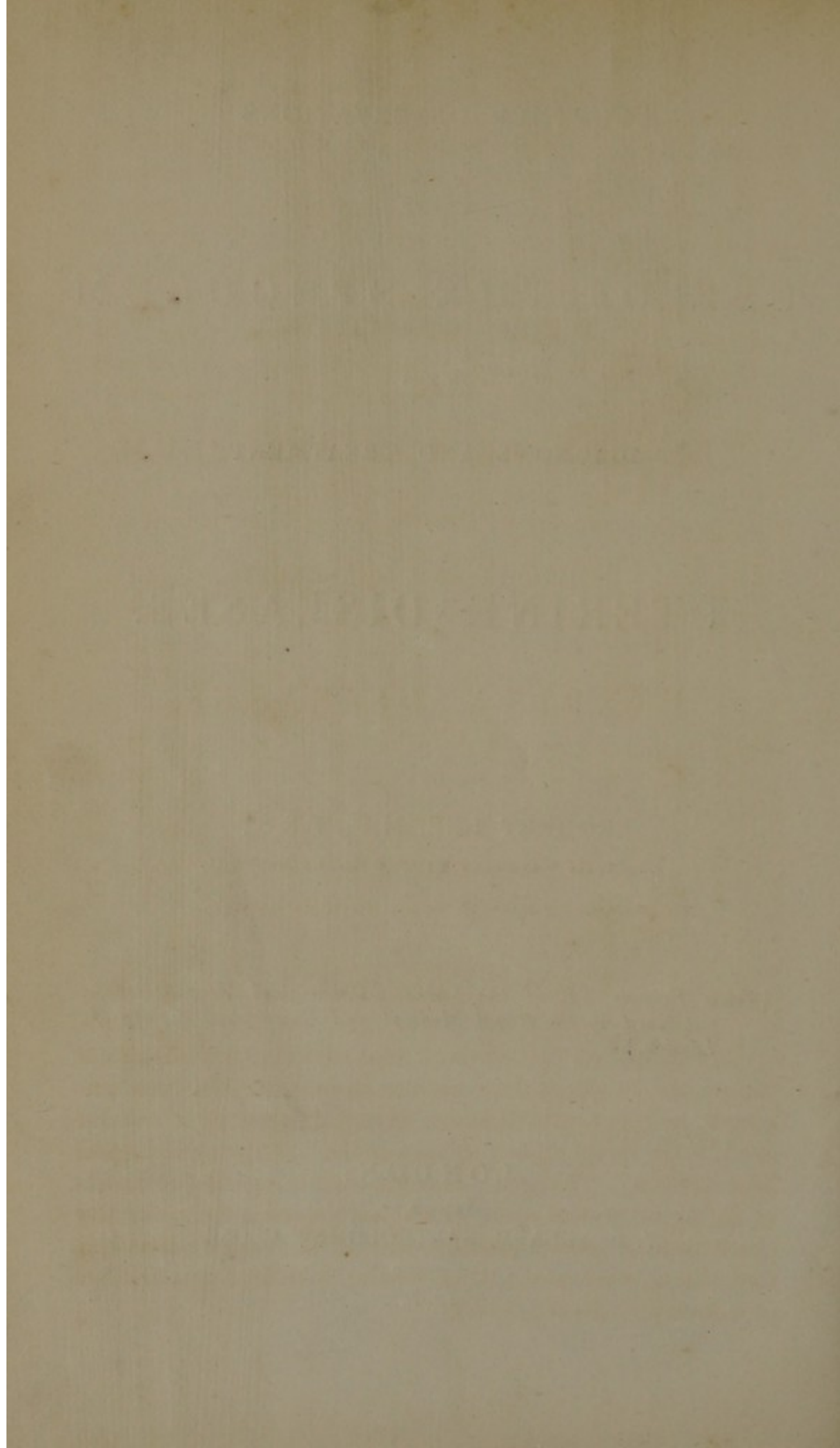
FURTHER OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
USE OF THE SPECULUM
IN THE
DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT
OF
UTERINE DISEASES.

BY
ROBERT LEE, M.D., F.R.S.,
OBSTETRIC PHYSICIAN TO ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

*[From Volume XL of the 'Medico-Chirurgical Transactions,'
published by the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of
London.]*

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Received May 14th.—Read June 9th, 1857.

THE details of 220 cases of real or imaginary disease of the uterus, in which the speculum and caustic had been employed by other practitioners, were published in a tabular form in the thirty-eighth volume of the 'Medico Chirurgical Transactions.' Written histories, containing all the details of eighty additional cases which have since come under my observation in private practice, and in St. George's Hospital, have been condensed into a similar tabular form, and are now presented to the Society.

Of these 300 patients, 47 were unmarried, one had barely completed her eighteenth year; there were several under twenty, and the greater number under thirty years of age, and were suffering from hysteria, leucorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, or some nervous affection of the uterus, without inflammation, ulceration, or any structural disease or displacement of the organ. In case 256 the patient had been informed that the womb was prolapsed and much ulcerated, and some instrument had been introduced daily for six weeks, by a physician extensively engaged in the treatment of uterine disease, and great expense incurred, with an aggravation of all the symptoms. In this case I found the hymen so perfect that it was impossible to reach the os uteri without employing an unjustifiable degree of violence. On the ground of morality, and on every other ground, the employment of the speculum in these 47 cases could admit of no defence.

Of these 300 patients 70 were barren, and the sterility was not removed, nor the hysteria, leucorrhœa, or disordered menstruation, under which the greater number were labouring, in a single instance relieved, or any benefit obtained. The injurious effects of a long course of speculum and caustic treatment upon the moral feelings and character of several of these individuals were not attempted to be concealed, the treatment being spoken of with horror and shame.

Of these 300 patients there were a considerable number suffering from cancerous disease of the uterus, in all of which the symptoms were increased by the introduction of the speculum, and the application of caustic or the actual cautery to the ulcerated vagina, and os and cervix uteri. In case 236, though the carcinomatous ulceration was in an advanced stage, and the nature of the disease obvious to the most inexperienced, after an examination with the speculum a false prognosis was given, and iron heated to a white heat in fires of coke, was for months passed through the tube, and delusive hopes of recovery held out to the last, and the pecuniary concerns of the husband involved in irretrievable

ruin by the charges, medical and surgical, incurred by such unscientific, unprofessional, and unprincipled proceedings.

Neither in the living nor in the dead body have I ever seen a case of simple ulceration from chronic inflammation of the os or cervix uteri, and to apply the term ulceration to states of the os uteri in which the mucous membrane, or, as it is termed by some, the basement membrane, is not destroyed by ulceration, is an abuse of language calculated only to deceive and mislead the members of the medical profession, from whom the truth has been carefully concealed. The speculum emanated from the syphilitic wards of the hospitals of Paris, and it would have been better for the women of England had its use been confined to those institutions.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
221	— Aug. 4, 1855.	Married; two children.	30	<i>Previous History.</i>—Adhesion of placenta in the first labour. After this was in a low state, and had "Essex fever." Came to London, and was five weeks under the care of a physician, who examined the uterus once with the speculum, and said it had been injured by the adhesion. Various medicines were prescribed (quinine and steel), and an injection with alum. Did not gain ground till these remedies were "thrown away," and then got better by degrees. Numerous boils afterwards appeared. Weakness, inability to walk, and sense of bearing down. Examined by a physician in London, with the speculum, and congestion and chronic inflammation said to exist; leeches. Pregnancy again took place, and the health improved; labour natural, and suckled her child. Eight months after, an attack of low fever and inability to walk, and irritation of the bowels. Three days ago consulted a physician, who examined with the speculum, and said there was induration and ulceration of the womb, and that a long course of speculum and caustic treatment was absolutely necessary. An eminent hospital physician requested that this treatment should not be commenced until the state of the rectum had been very carefully examined. <i>Present State.</i>—Os uteri irregular, and harder than natural. The posterior lip projects unusually, but its surface is smooth. Both lips, seen through the speculum, red, like a cherry; but the surface was neither abraded nor ulcerated. The induration has nearly disappeared without caustic, and the general health improved.
222	— Aug. 22, 1855.	Married; eight children.	33	<i>Previous History.</i>—Hysterical since an early period of life. Her last child born in May, 1854, and since has had pains about the pelvis; leucorrhœa and irregularity of the catamenia; rheumatism in the shoulder; and pains occasionally about the uterus, like those of labour. Consulted a physician in Jersey, who said, before an examination had been made, that there was "something wrong about the womb." The speculum then employed, and ulceration declared to exist. Caustic was applied, at first three times a week, then twice, and then once, till November, during the months of July, August, September, and October. There was no cough during the whole of the time, which she spent entirely upon the couch. The hysterical symptoms were considered by the physician a proof that there was some mischief about the uterus. In November it was found that there was "displacement" of the womb; the ulceration was said to be "cured." Three leeches were applied to the os uteri during the cauterizing, twice when the ulceration was going on, and once after. Cough commenced in May, 1855, and she is now threatened with tubercular phthisis. <i>Present State.</i>—Purulent expectoration, and a cavity at the top of the right lung. The introduction of the

223	— Aug. 27, 1855.	Married.	42	finger into the vagina gave exquisite pain; os uteri smooth, soft, and natural; no ulceration or cicatrix seen through speculum. <i>Previous History.</i> —Hæmorrhage from the uterus, and the body enlarged during several years, in all probability from the presence of a fibrous tumour in the walls. Various means had been employed with partial relief. A physician was then consulted, who examined with the speculum, and showed the husband through the bivalve that chronic inflammation of the neck of the womb existed, and asserted that the disease had previously been wholly misunderstood, and that he had just been called in time to prevent irreparable mischief taking place. The speculum and caustic were employed, sometimes twice a week, for six or eight months. Not the slightest benefit resulted. Hæmorrhage and great debility followed, and a homœopathist has ever since had the care of the patient. <i>Present State.</i> —Great pain on exertion in the region of the uterus; the body large, and lying upon the rectum.
224	— Aug. 27, 1855.	Married; four children.	54	<i>Previous History.</i> —Catamenia ceased five years ago; before this enjoyed good health, only suffered from an eruption on one of the legs, with varicose veins and leucorrhœa. Consulted a physician, who examined with the speculum, and said there was ulceration of the womb, and during three months was frequently cauterised, which gave great pain, and was followed by profuse discharge; health bad. <i>Present State.</i> —Uterus in a perfectly healthy condition; great disorder of digestive organs; hypochondriacal.
225	— Sept. 10, 1855.	Married; several children.	37	<i>Previous History.</i> —Several miscarriages after the birth of her first child. Went to Edinburgh, where a long course of speculum and caustic treatment was adopted. Potassa fusa had been applied, and sloughing of the os uteri produced. The same treatment subsequently pursued in London. <i>Present State.</i> —Has been eighteen weeks in bed, on the supposition that pregnancy existed, and a miscarriage about to take place. Not pregnant. The os and cervix uteri hard, irregular, and disorganized.
226	— Sept. 17, 1855.	Married; eight children.	28	<i>Previous History.</i> —The youngest child five months old. General health good; a feeling of bearing down, and heat internally across the lower part of the abdomen and in the groins; catamenia have appeared twice since her confinement. About a year since suffered from the same symptoms when pregnant. Consulted a physician in London, who examined with the speculum, but did not apply caustic, and said she was "labouring under some extraordinary disease," for which he did not recommend any particular treatment. A year before this, she had consulted a physician in Dublin, who examined with the speculum, applied leeches, and scarified the os uteri, and then frequently touched the part with lunar caustic. Another physician in London had been consulted, who said there was displacement of the uterus, and recommended an abdominal bandage. <i>Present State.</i> —No displacement; orifice of uterus unusually open; lips somewhat irregular, but not hard.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
227	— Sept. 18, 1855.	Married twice; one child.	25	<i>Previous History.</i>—In 1843, when her child was born, health excellent. Not long after her second marriage supposes that she was nearly poisoned with lead in the pipes, and was paralysed. Consulted a surgeon, at Liverpool, who examined with the speculum, and declared that the uterus was in a state of ulceration, and she was cauterised twice a week for many months. Gradually recovered. "Was so afraid that she would have the ulcer of the womb again," that she recently came to London, and saw a physician, who examined her with the speculum, and cauterised the uterus twenty-one days in succession. She confessed that the use of the speculum and caustic gave her no pain, and had set her mind at rest about the ulceration. Has since had rheumatic gout, and an enlargement of the liver and one of the ovaries, and has tried hydropathy. The kidneys have been even supposed to be diseased, and homœopathy has been tried; and also the waters of Ems. <i>Present State.</i>—Vagina healthy; os uteri small; a slight hardness on the margin of the posterior lip, and slight irregularity. There is an enlarged and painful state of the right side of the hypogastrium, but uncertain if there be any organic disease of the right ovarium.
228	— Sept. 20, 1855.	Married; sterile.	36	<i>Previous History.</i>—Has enjoyed robust health, but being extremely anxious to have an heir, a great variety of means, local and constitutional, have been tried to remove the barrenness, but without success. In Edinburgh various experiments had been tried, bougies, sounds, hysterotomes, after which she had nearly died from hæmorrhage. Then a long course of speculum and caustic treatment in London, by which her bodily health has been deeply injured, and the mental faculties impaired. <i>Present State.</i>—Os uteri hard and irregular, as if about to become affected with cancer.
229	— Sept. 26, 1855.	Married six years; sterile.	28	<i>Previous History.</i>—In good health before marriage; six months suffered from "pricking and shooting pains in the womb." Consulted a physician in London, who examined with the speculum, and told her she had ulceration of the womb, and went on treating her with the speculum and caustic twice a week upwards of a year, whereby her state was not improved. <i>Present State.</i>—General health apparently good; os uteri soft, smooth, and healthy; altogether in a natural state.

230	— Oct. 2, 1855.	Married; six children.	37	<i>Previous History.</i>—Nervous and hysterical; general weakness; numbness of the legs, and inability to walk; leucorrhœa. Reports that she was examined by a physician in the country five years ago, who declared that there was ulceration of the uterus, and had a course of speculum and caustic treatment of three months' duration; the caustic was applied five times every fourteen days. The discharge from the vagina continued unchanged; blood escaped after each application. This treatment was commenced when she had not been confined with her last child more than two months. <i>Present State.</i>—Perinæum has been extensively torn; uterus in a most healthy condition.
231	— Oct. 5, 1855.	Married; several children.	40	<i>Previous History.</i>—Her eldest daughter is nineteen years of age, her youngest three; she supposes that she miscarried at Christmas, 1854, but an ovum was not seen. In May believed herself to be pregnant, and seven months gone. Her ordinary medical attendant examined the abdomen, and satisfied himself that the enlargement did not depend upon the gravid uterus. A physician, residing in London, was then consulted, who examined with the speculum, and declared that ulceration of the os uteri existed, and applied caustic seven or eight times. After he had reported that she was well the patient went to the sea-side, and remained there until a few days ago, looking much better, exceedingly well, and satisfied in her own mind that she was seven months pregnant. The catamenia had appeared last in February; she said the movements of the fœtus were distinctly felt. The areola were dark and broad, and milk could be pressed out of the left nipple. The abdomen was considerably enlarged, and the whole of the lower part dull on percussion; the umbilicus prominent. No sound of fœtal heart or placental murmur distinctly heard by auscultation. Internally the lips of the os uteri high up felt soft and swollen, as in the latter months of pregnancy. Through the anterior wall of the vagina and uterus the head of the fœtus was felt. The ballotement was distinct. There could be no doubt about the existence of pregnancy, and in due time labour came on, and a healthy child was born, and the mother recovered in the most favorable manner. <i>Present State.</i>—Perfect health.
232	— Oct. 15, 1855.	Married; one child.	35	<i>Previous History.</i>—Had enjoyed good general health till two years ago, when she miscarried. Ever since has been weak, and felt constant pain in the back. Consulted a physician in London, who examined with the speculum, said there was a fissure in the os uteri, and applied caustic repeatedly, from which no benefit was derived. Catamenia regular, but painful; leucorrhœa; tongue clean; digestive organs healthy. <i>Present State.</i>—In very good general health, except a slight fissure in the os uteri, the result of her labour; no disease discovered. Leucorrhœa continues.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
223	— Oct. 27, 1855.	Married; six children.	30	<i>Previous History.</i>—The youngest child ten months old. Since its birth has been weak, and has suffered from pain in the left hip, and sense of bearing down and leucorrhœa, in consequence of which the child was weaned. Catamenia regular. A medical practitioner in the country examined her in July with speculum, and told her she had an ulcer of the womb, and cauterization was frequently employed without any benefit. A great discharge, streaked with blood, followed each application of the caustic, and she was so ill that she could not sit up. Consulted another surgeon seven weeks ago, who examined with the finger, and said one lip of the os uteri was more thickened than the other. He then used the speculum, but said he discovered no trace of ulceration. <i>Present State.</i>—Leucorrhœa still continues. Has no more power in moving the limbs than before the caustic was employed. Is hysterical, and liable to faintness and palpitation of the heart. Os uteri near the ostium vaginæ; the anterior lip swollen, but not hard nor ulcerated, no trace of ulceration ever having existed in the os uteri; the posterior lip soft and natural. A copious white discharge seen flowing from os uteri.
234	— Oct. 30, 1855.	Married; one child.	50	<i>Previous History.</i>—Was delivered with instruments (the perforator and crotchet) eighteen years ago, and had a slow recovery; the health ever since been "broken down." Several miscarriages since. In August last, during the absence of her husband, was suddenly seized with "relaxation" and uneasiness about the uterus. A physician in London was consulted, who made an examination with the speculum, and said, "he discovered engorgement and decided ulceration of the uterus, to subdue which immediate and constant operations would be necessary." He visited the patient twice a day, and each time introduced the speculum, and either applied caustic, or, as he termed it, "dressed the wound." This continued for a month, when no apparent progress having been made, the general health being very deeply injured, the husband decided that it should be discontinued. Since the cauterization, which was continued ten weeks, there has been discharge from the vagina; there was none before. <i>Present State.</i>—Perinæum has been extensively torn. There is a firm cicatrix in the upper part of the vagina, the consequence of sloughing. Os uteri small and hard.

235	— Nov. 8, 1855.	Married; two children.	23	<i>Previous History.</i>—Had a miscarriage five months ago; leucorrhœa ever since. Catamenia regular, but painful. Hysterical; palpitation of the heart; headache. Six weeks ago consulted a surgeon, who examined her with the speculum, and said there was "inflammation of the neck of the womb, and what they called ulceration." Caustic was applied once, but having been followed by great pain and aggravation of the symptoms, it was not allowed to be repeated, and she has been worse ever since. <i>Present State.</i>—There is no swelling, hardness, or irregularity of the os and cervix uteri.
236	— Nov. 10, 1855.	Married; several children.	43	<i>Previous History.</i>—On the 10th of November, 1855, with Mr. Cholmondeley, I saw a patient who had enjoyed good health till July, 1855, when the catamenia became irregular, and once hæmorrhage had taken place, but to no great extent, and without pain; a thin and bloody discharge continued during the months of August, September, and October. On examination I felt a fungous mass, with an irregular surface, soft in some parts and hard in others, growing from the anterior left of the os uteri, which did not feel hard, swollen, or irregular. The growth was continuous with the anterior lip. The posterior lip was affected in a similar manner, but slighter degree. I had no doubt that this was fungous cancer, and Mr. Cholmondeley had formed this opinion before, and stated it to the husband. On the 7th of February, 1856, I again saw this patient with Mr. Cholmondeley, when the disease had made some progress, and no doubt could remain respecting its nature. A few days after this a physician in London, and a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, was requested to see the case. After examining with the speculum, he declared that it was not too late to restore her to health, and said "he would make a woman of her;" but that it would be absolutely necessary for him to see her three times a week, and on the intermediate days his assistant would require to attend to apply the proper remedies; these being irons heated in a fire of coke to a white heat, and applied to the uterus through the speculum, and caustic when these were not employed. The speculum, actual cautery, and caustic treatment were assiduously continued, with great aggravation of all the symptoms, until the middle of March, 1857, when the patient died. On the 24th of March, 1857, Mr. Cholmondeley, having obtained permission, made a <i>post-mortem</i> examination, removed the uterus, and brought it to me on the 26th of March last. I have placed the cancerous uterus, with a perforation of the posterior wall of the vagina and rectum, on the table of the Society, along with the cancerous uterus of another female, where the speculum and caustic had been used daily for eighteen months, delusive hopes of recovery being held out to the patient and her relatives.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
237	— Nov. 22, 1855.	Married; eight children.	40	<i>Previous History.</i>—Went to India in early life, and suffered severely from the climate. Nine years ago had a premature confinement; the placenta being retained, great force was required for its extraction. Inflammation of the veins of the uterus and crural phlebitis followed on the left side and then on the right. In 1848, was under the care of a practitioner in the north of India, who examined with the speculum, and said there was ulceration of the womb. Was twelve months under his care, during which caustic, leeches, and scarification, and injections, were employed. In 1849, the health not having improved, she removed to the Hills, where another practitioner ordered her to be cupped, and then gave tonics, without any advantage. In England she came under the care of a surgeon, who employed the speculum and caustic for several months, and on her return to India was seen by a medical officer of the Company, who gave the following report of her case, dated October 1st, 1853: "Mrs. — applied to me for medical advice, at Simla, May last, when I found her suffering from a long standing uterine affection, which had commenced and lasted ever since her last confinement, some five or six years previous, and for which she had been actively treated, both in this country and under the first medical men in Europe. On first seeing Mrs. — I found her suffering from a sensation of weight within the pelvis, and almost constant pain in the back, thighs, and groins, accompanied with occasional spasms in the uterus, which were always followed by a profuse bloody and sometimes colourless discharge. In addition to these symptoms, there was a sensation of sharp lancinating pain in the vagina, so severe as to prevent her sitting in one position with any comfort, which occasionally would increase in violence so as to be almost past endurance. On making an examination I not only found the neck and mouth of the womb much swollen and congested, but in a frightful state of ulceration, which fully accounted for the last-mentioned distressing symptoms. The body of the uterus was large and tense, rising above the pelvis, and about the size it would assume at the fourth month of pregnancy. I gave it as my opinion at the time that Mrs. — was four months advanced in pregnancy, or that there was a large tumour or some other foreign substance in the womb. The former suggestion she said was impossible, and the latter opinion I was induced to adopt for the following reasons: namely, that shortly after I had been attending her, a considerable flow of fetid water came away in gushes, which indicated a state of dropsy of the womb, which afterwards, however, turned out to be incorrect. <i>Treatment.</i>—I persevered in the application of six leeches to the mouth of the womb every sixth day, for about six weeks; kept the

bowels open by a mild laxative electuary, and gave two-grain doses of the iodide of iron every day. This system had the effect of reducing pain, giving strength, and after the fourth application of the leeches the congestion of the os and cervix uteri completely disappeared. However, I continued the leeching, owing to the pain in the loins and occasional irritable state of the uterus, until on one occasion, after the application, a considerable discharge of dark-coloured blood, followed by fetid water, took place, which decided me upon immediately evacuating the contents of the uterus, whatever they might be. So I passed in a curved silver catheter, drew off the contents of the uterus, and after eighteen hours suffering, a fetus, enveloped in dense membranes, came away. This I look upon as a blighted conception at an early period of uterine congestion, and acting as a foreign body in an intensely irritable uterus. I feel convinced in my mind, should Mrs. — ever suffer again in a similar manner, that a judicious direct application of leeches, a course of alterative tonics and mild laxatives, will be sufficient, not only to give relief, but to effect a cure." She returned to England.

Present State.—The health greatly injured by the climate of India and the treatment. Has now sensation of bearing down or uneasiness about the uterus. The whole nervous system in a state of great irritation. Veins of the abdomen and lower extremities swollen; catamenia regular. The os uteri is neither congested nor ulcerated. It is smooth, soft, and regular. No enlargement nor displacement, nor disease, could be detected, both without and with the speculum. The health has been gradually restored by sea air, bathing, light diet, and mild alteratives and aperients.

Previous History.—Has always suffered from headache, and irritation and uneasiness about the nose. Catamenia appeared at seventeen, and have been regular ever since. Has never known what it is to feel well. At twenty-one, violent hysterical attacks; then suffered from an injury to the knee, by which she was confined to bed for months; it has remained stiff, and she has ever since had hysteria, and undergone every variety of medical treatment, directed by the most eminent physicians and surgeons in London. Recently has consulted a physician-accoucheur, who examined the uterus with the speculum, said it was ulcerated, and has repeatedly applied caustic, and stated that a long course of such treatment will be required. *Present State.*—In a hysterical and half maniacal condition. No disease or displacement of the uterus could be discovered;—nothing to justify the use of the speculum and caustic.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
239	— Dec. 5, 1855.	Married; six children.	37	<i>Previous History.</i>—Has resided eighteen years at Bombay, and has suffered much from dyspepsia and bearing down pains. Had fever after her fourth confinement. Came to England in 1848, consulted a physician, who recommended a course of mercury, which disagreed. A physician-accoucheur was then consulted, who examined her with the speculum and said the womb was ulcerated, and applied caustic. Then consulted Madame B—— and was mesmerised, and had enemas with nitre and alum administered, and these she thought "did her a great deal of good." Another physician-accoucheur was consulted, who gave her steel, and said, after examining her with the speculum, that the womb was not affected. Returned to Bombay, and had a child nine months after; had a low fever with discharge, after that the bearing down returned, and irritation about the bladder. Had another child, and then again returned to England, her health "having given way." During the last six months has been under the care of a homoeopathist. Is still ill. <i>Present State.</i>—Great relaxation of the abdominal parietes and vagina. Uterus low, but healthy in structure.
240	— Jan. 11, 1856.	Single.	37	<i>Previous History.</i>—Treated some time for displacement of the uterus, and "seems to have been treated by the speculum and application of caustic for eight or nine months, which has caused her much pain, and from which she has gained little relief." The catamenia had been too frequent, and there had been leucorrhœa, and she had suffered severely from hysteria. Inflammation of the uterus and relaxation of the parts were said to exist. <i>Present State.</i>—No disease or displacement of the uterus. Hysterical.
241	— Jan. 14, 1856.	Single.	20	<i>Previous History.</i>—Since the age of seventeen has suffered severe pain at each monthly period, the discharge has been scanty, and she has had strong hysterical fits, with sense of suffocation and sickness at stomach. Bowels constipated. The mouth is sometimes said to be turned to the left side. Consulted a practitioner, who said she had ulceration of the uterus, after examination with the speculum. <i>Present State.</i>—Hysteria without any uterine disease.
242	— Feb. 5, 1856.	Married; three children.	35	<i>Previous History.</i>—Some years ago had a chronic eruption on the face, which disappeared after the internal use of arsenic. Two years since had gastric fever, with violent spasms, and lately has had a return of the same symptoms. Catamenia regular, with irritation of external parts; hæmorrhoids, leucorrhœa. Consulted a surgeon about twelve months ago, who examined her with the speculum, and told her she had ulceration of the mouth and neck of the womb. Caustic was

applied, according to her request, daily for nearly a year. *Present State*.—Os uteri swollen, lips red and tender; no hardness; no part of the surface ulcerated. The eruption has reappeared on the face. General health better.

Previous History.—Hysterical through life. Her last child born eighteen months ago, and having exerted herself soon after, was attacked with pain in the right side, and could not walk; she was obliged to give up nursing. Leucorrhœa followed, and injections were used; but she did not regain her health. November twelve months consulted a physician, who examined her with the speculum, and said there was slight ulceration of the womb, and he applied caustic; and he recommended her ordinary medical attendant to repeat the application once a week, and that was done eight times, and injections were used, and she felt much better for a time. Still she never lost the pain in the side. Consulted the same physician again in 1855, who again examined with the speculum, and ordered leeches to be applied to the os uteri. The bleeding was profuse, and produced great weakness. *Present State*.—Uterus healthy.

Previous History.—Enjoyed good health till July last, when she began to suffer from pain in the back, and leucorrhœa. Catamenia regular, but profuse. Consulted a practitioner in the country, who examined with the speculum, and told her there was ulceration of the uterus, and applied caustic five times, and afterwards leeches, which bled profusely. *Present State*.—General health good; complains of a sensation of burning in the lower part of the abdomen; uterus in the natural state, viz., high up; the os is small and smooth, and not unusually open.

Previous History.—Born in the West Indies. Had a severe attack of measles seven years ago, which was followed by a great leucorrhœa, which continued for some months. Pain in the upper part of the right side of abdomen, and headache succeeded. Afterwards suffered from a sensation of sinking about the stomach and constant desire to vomit; then pains in the inside of the right thigh. Was first under the care of a homœopathic practitioner for eight months, then consulted a physician—accoucheur four years ago, who examined with the speculum, and said it was necessary to apply caustic to the womb. This was frequently done during eight weeks; but residing at a distance from London, the treatment, being inconvenient to the patient, was discontinued, and she was very little better after it was done. Has since consulted a surgeon, who has frequently cauterized the uterus, and applied leeches to the orifice. *Present State*.—Complains of dragging pain on each side of the hypogastrium; tongue white; bowels confined; functions of digestive organs greatly disordered; os uteri low down; anterior lip hard, swollen, everted, but the surface smooth; the posterior lip in the same condition; the whole os uteri harder and more irregular than natural, but not ulcerated. Body of uterus large and hard.

243	— Feb. 7, 1856.	Married; three children.	26
244	— March 4, 1856.	Married; sterile.	39
245	— March 8, 1856.	Married; four children.	41

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
246	— April 2, 1856.	Single.	40	<i>Previous History.</i>—Enjoyed good health in early life; since the age of thirty, pain in the back and bearing down. Came under the care of a surgeon three months ago, and was informed by a physician-accoucheur, by whom she had been treated during the five previous months, that there was an enlarged condition of the cervix, and considerable fulness of the uterus. At this time the os uteri could not be felt; there was a distinct enlargement of the uterus, and no "cervix discoverable," no ulceration apparently. She had little or no pain, but a feeling of weight, and occasionally a difficulty in emptying the bladder; her general health good; catamenia regular, no hæmorrhage; iodine had been given largely, and bichloride of mercury recommended; caustic had been applied many times, but the speculum had not been employed; the caustic had been conducted along the left forefinger. <i>Present State.</i>—The front of the pelvis filled with a large, hard mass, uterine or ovarian; the os uteri is felt high up behind, in a healthy condition.
247	— April 4, 1856.	Married eight years; sterile.	30	<i>Previous History.</i>—Uterine hæmorrhage three years ago; is ill six days, and then gets well, and then the discharge begins again; dreadful pain in the small of the back and stomach; sickness in the morning; great palpitation about the heart; feels faint at times, and cares for nothing; pains down the thighs and in the knees, which she cannot describe; the speculum and caustic had been employed. <i>Present State.</i>—There is a hard mass lying in front of the uterus and connected with it, in all probability a fibrous tumour imbedded in the anterior wall, very hard and irregular; the os uteri open, the neck short.
248	— April 11, 1856.	Married twenty-two years; sterile.	44	<i>Previous History.</i>—For the cure of her sterility was recommended to go to Edinburgh and consult a physician-accoucheur; the uterine sound was first employed, "which had nearly destroyed her;" violent pain and inflammation followed its introduction; then wore the metallic ring and prong for some months to relieve retroversion, which was said to exist; the health greatly injured by this. At the end of a year underwent a long course of speculum and caustic, and ever since has been in a wretched condition; has been mesmerised. <i>Present State.</i>—Barren; extensive disorganization of the uterus and vagina; os uteri hard and irregular, and a firm cicatrix between the os and vagina on the left side; the rectum appears to be contracted near the part, and to be involved in the mischief.
249	— April 13, 1856.	Married; one child.	33	<i>Previous History.</i>—Has had leucorrhœa six years, which commenced soon after the birth of her child; a great variety of remedies had been used without any benefit; it was said she had some fissure, and underwent a surgical operation without any good effect; a course of bichloride of

250	— April 14, 1856.	Married; four children.	37	mercury with tincture of bark had been tried, and also a long course of speculum and caustic treatment. <i>Present State.</i>—Os uteri soft and smooth, but unusually open; but no disease of any kind felt within; uterus not enlarged; the discharge is seen flowing from the os uteri. <i>Previous History.</i>—Always weak and uncomfortable, with a grating sensation about the upper part of the chest; dyspnoea on exertion; pain in the back and front of the head; has had much illness. In 1847 had a miscarriage with great hæmorrhage, and a tedious recovery; catamenia regular since; has had leeches applied to the os uteri by the advice of a physician-accoucheur, and has undergone a long course of speculum and caustic treatment for ulceration of the womb. <i>Present State.</i>—A loud bellows sound over the region of the heart; pulse 80, intermitting; no swelling of feet; no disease of the uterus detected.
251	— April 23, 1856.	Married; several children.	50	<i>Previous History.</i>—Catamenia ceased ten years ago; general health has been good, but recently has suffered from discomfort about the uterus, and there has been a little discharge of blood from the vagina; leeches to the back and warm baths were recommended, after which the uneasiness and discharge were increased. Came to London and consulted a physician, on the 15th of February, who examined the womb with the speculum, and said at first there was inflammation only, "simple inflammation," and he said he would cure it "in no time." He gave her an acid mixture to take three times a day, and an alum and zinc injection, and tannin; she saw him once a week, and at every visit he examined her with the speculum. Some time after, he said there was a small ulcer of the os uteri, and he touched it with caustic; this treatment was continued for upwards of a month, and being worse, the uterine sound was introduced, which produced such intense pain that she resolved not to permit him to make any further experiments upon her. <i>Present State.</i>—Uterus small as after the critical age; the lips flat and smooth; no inflammation, or ulceration, or organic disease of any kind detected.
252	— April 29, 1856.	Married; seven children.	35	<i>Previous History.</i>—Leucorrhœa for many years. Consulted a physician five years ago, who examined the os uteri, and said it was ragged and irregular, as if affected with cauliflower excrescence; since has had two children, and the labours were natural. A few months ago began to complain of weariness and aching pain in the loins, and then had considerable uterine hæmorrhage. Consulted a physician in the country, who examined with the speculum, and recommended having the mouth of the womb rubbed frequently with nitrate of silver, and taking internally hydriodate of potash and citrate of iron; she was kept in the horizontal position six weeks. Benefit appeared for a time to be obtained from this treatment, but the symptoms have returned. <i>Present State.</i>—No organic disease of the uterus detected; but it is in a state of great morbid sensibility.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of the Uterine Organs.
253	— May 1, 1856.	Married; sterile.	30	<i>Previous History.</i>—Enjoyed good health till she married at the age of nineteen, and went to Madras six months after, where she had a severe attack of jungle fever, this was the commencement of her subsequent illness. Returned to England, and was partially restored to health; went back to India, when hæmorrhage from the uterus, which had previously been experienced, returned and lasted some time. In 1846 the catamenia disappeared for some months, but she was not pregnant. At Madras consulted a practitioner, who said there was retroversion of the womb, and ordered her to return to England and place herself under the care of a practitioner at Edinburgh, but the state of health prevented this being done till 1848. Examined at Edinburgh with the speculum, and informed that there was inflammation and ulceration of the womb, and contraction; the hysterotomy was used, which produced great pain, and was followed by profuse hæmorrhage for three days; then an instrument was introduced to support the womb, but it was removed in two days, as it caused great pain and bleeding; then caustic was often applied for ulceration, then iodine in the shape of balls every other day; then sent to Manchester to visit some friends, and directed only to use cold water internally. When she returned to Edinburgh it was found that the cold water had produced an inflamed spot on the back part of the womb, which being tender to the touch, two leeches were applied, which bled profusely, and caused great weakness; then she took sarsaparilla and acids, and some ointment was applied to the os uteri, which gave great relief. Left Edinburgh in January, 1849, in consequence of a proposal to remove something by an operation from the back part of the womb, to which she would not submit. Came to London, and saw a physician-accoucheur, who examined with the speculum, and said the womb was displaced, and that an instrument must be worn for some months; he introduced a metallic instrument, which caused constant bleeding, and at times great pain; was kept in the horizontal position till May, with the instrument within her; health greatly injured. Then went to Brighton by advice, and found it impossible to sit up with the instrument: it was never taken out all this time. In fourteen days returned to London, and insisted on the instrument being removed; she wore it six months. Sailed for India in July, and gained strength during the voyage; but a thick, yellow discharge continued, and suffered as much as ever at the monthly periods. There had been hæmorrhage during the whole time the instrument had been worn, and never without pain. In November was seized with violent pain in the womb, which was considered by a practitioner at

Madras to be neuralgia; he affirmed, however, that there was also ulceration, and the speculum and caustic were used every second day for several months, which caused great pain; was kept lying for three months; after this enjoyed tolerable health when left alone; but at times there was great pain of the parts and a profuse discharge, with irregular attacks of spasm of the womb about midway between each monthly period; these pains increased much in August, 1851, and the same medical practitioner at Madras applied a blister every week for eight weeks, or two small blisters over the lower part of the abdomen; from these she derived no benefit, but the reverse; became very weak, and had constant low fever. In March, 1852, had a severe fever; was first sent to sea and then to the Hills, where she remained two years, when the general health rapidly improved, but at times she suffered severely from spasm about the uterus; never suffered from these spasms till these instruments were used. In 1853 the spine became affected, and she could not walk, and could not use her arms, and was reduced to a state of great weakness; had a blister on the back, and was kept lying five months; then took large quantities of iron, and quite recovered. Returned to Madras in January, 1853, and enjoyed pretty good health. In 1854, the spasms of the womb occasionally occurred; during this time she was in no medical hands, and quite recovered her general health. Left Madras for England in February, 1855; in May consulted a physician-accoucheur, who said he found the uterus displaced; "put it to rights," and ordered her to take bichloride of mercury for some months; continued to take it till August, and then went to Ems. Recently, violent attacks and spasm of the womb took place; her nervous system affected by the mercury, then she took camphor and hyoscyamus. *Present State.*—A cicatrix on the left side extending from the os uteri to the vagina. The whole of the back part of the vagina and upper part has been injured; the uterus is fixed to the rectum by adhesion; the lips of the os uteri are partially destroyed.

Previous History.—In good health till married five years ago, when she had a miscarriage. Since then has always been ill, and suffered from leucorrhœa; general strength greatly reduced. Six months after the abortion consulted a physician-accoucheur in London, who examined her with the speculum, and told her there was ulceration of the vagina; and he attended her five months every day, and "used caustic and all sorts of burning things." After this course of treatment was a great deal worse; she was salivated twice during that time. Then a course of sea-bathing. Then during eight months homœopathic treatment. Went to Bombay two years ago, and by the sea voyage restored to nearly perfect health. Rode on horseback in India, and nine months after felt unwell again, and suffered from "the same feelings of ulceration about the womb." Small growths then appeared around the orifice of the vagina. Returned to England two months ago.

30

Married;
sterile.

May 6,
1856.

254

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
255	— April 15, 1856. Saint George's Hospital.	Married ten years; one child.	35	The leucorrhœa, which had been profuse, has nearly ceased after using an astringent injection and taking citrate of iron. <i>Present State.</i>—Os uteri smooth, soft, and regular; cervix healthy; no displacement. At the orifice of the vagina there are growths very tender, but not ulcerated nor inflamed. No ulceration of the vagina; rugæ prominent. <i>Previous History.</i>—Delivered at Lambeth, with instruments, of her only child nine years ago. Five years since seized with general weakness; pain in the back and "falling down of the womb." Four years ago admitted into a hospital, and had leeches applied to the womb three times a week during four months. Five months after this went to Southsea, and was under the care of a practitioner, who said "the womb was diseased," and he applied caustic three times a week for about three months; but she did not derive any benefit from the treatment. <i>Present State.</i>—Symptoms continue; catamenia regular; is nervous, and complains of pricking and darting pains in the lumbar region; sensation of bearing down; globus hystericus; and a yellow-coloured discharge from the vagina, not offensive; no difficulty in evacuating the contents of the bladder and rectum. Cervix uteri hard and enlarged all round, particularly in the anterior part. Anterior lip small, flat, hard, and irregular, and somewhat swollen. The posterior lip appears to be entirely gone; a cicatrix in the vagina. It was questionable whether it were malignant disease, or simply the result of mal-treatment: it proved to be the latter.
256	— May 9, 1856.	Single.	48	<i>Previous History.</i>—After much fatigue suffered from sense of bearing down, and sometimes difficulty in passing the urine. Catamenia irregular eighteen months. Last Christmas consulted a practitioner, who said "the womb was down and much ulcerated, especially the mouth." Some instrument was introduced daily for six weeks, which gave great pain. <i>Present State.</i>—Nothing in the appearance indicating the presence of any serious disease. The hymen so perfect that the finger could not be introduced into the vagina. No tumour of abdomen, and no signs of uterine disease.
257	— May 12, 1856.	Married; six children.	43	<i>Previous History.</i>—Debility and leucorrhœa since her last confinement; catamenia regular; sensation of bearing down. Consulted a practitioner in the country, who examined her with the speculum and applied caustic, which she thought greatly relieved her; but the pain in the side and down the leg from which she had suffered continues. It was proposed to apply leeches internally;

258	— May 24, 1856.	Married.	31	but this was not done. <i>Present State</i>.—Leucorrhœa and irritation and hæmorrhoids; os uteri healthy, soft, and smooth; body not enlarged. <i>Previous History</i>.—A miscarriage twelve months since; leucorrhœa after, with pain of back and right hip, of which she had long complained. Consulted a practitioner, who stated that there was a small tumour in the situation of the right ovary, and prolapsus uteri. After three months the uterus was examined with the speculum, and it was found that the "os felt a little rough, as if there were some abrasion," and as if the surface were a little granular. This was touched with nitrate of silver twice, and got well. Five weeks ago the examination was repeated, and the womb found perfectly healthy. <i>Present State</i>.—Uterus healthy; but a little lower down than natural. A slight enlargement in the right side of the hypogastrium.
259	— May 18, 1856.	Single.	40	<i>Previous History</i>.—Two years ago in perfect health; catamenia profuse. Has had little or no leucorrhœa; debility and pain in the lower part of the abdomen and back for some time; pain in passing urine. Speculum and caustic treatment ten months. <i>Present State</i>.—No disease nor displacement of the uterus. About the orifice of the vagina there are a number of painful excrescences growing.
260	— June 23, 1856.	Married; six children.	35	<i>Previous History</i>.—Has spent several years in Ceylon in the jungle; had dysentery during pregnancy; the catamenia regular; headache; has been hysterical; leucorrhœa. The uterus was examined by a practitioner, who thought it would be necessary to apply caustic. Health greatly improved by the voyage to England. <i>Present State</i>.—No disease of the liver, spleen, ovaries, or uterus could be detected.
261	— July 3, 1856.	Married; ten children.	43	<i>Previous History</i>.—The last two children still-born; was afterwards very weak, but without pain or any distinct illness, when she went to the sea-side in September last. Returned home greatly improved, but caught cold, and had cough and other symptoms of incipient disease of the lungs. Went back to the sea-side in February, 1856, with cough and expectoration of blood and dyspnoea. Consulted a practitioner there, who examined the uterus with the speculum, and said an "ulcer had formed at the mouth of the womb," and "he considered that this ulcer had been of some standing." Caustic was repeatedly applied; returned home with the symptoms of pulmonary disease much aggravated. <i>Present State</i>.—The posterior lip is gone, as in cases where it has been destroyed by sloughing. The anterior lip healthy; is now suffering from tubercular phthisis.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
262	— July 25, 1856.	Married; three children.	30	<i>Previous History.</i>—Has spent some years on the Continent, and states that on one occasion she had taken medicines expressly for the purpose of bringing on abortion. Has never been robust. Three years ago had a swelling of the abdomen, which made it impossible for her to walk, and was extremely nervous. Last February was in Paris and consulted a surgeon, who examined her with the speculum, and said there was ulceration of the uterus. The husband was requested to look at the ulcer through the instrument. A course of speculum and caustic for four months followed, from which no benefit was derived. Came to England a month ago, and consulted an eminent surgeon, who requested me to examine and report upon the case. <i>Present State.</i>—Pain in the back, not constant; pain round the lower part of the abdomen, which is much swollen; swelling of the feet and ankles. The catamenia have been more profuse since the cauterization, and there has been a copious yellow discharge. Sensation of bearing down. Wears a bandage, without which she believes she could not walk at all. Tongue clean; bowels regular. Appears in robust health, but the mind disordered. No disease of uterus.
263	— August, 1856.	Single.	21	<i>Previous History.</i>—Has been ill twelve months; before in excellent health, but hysterical. Catamenia regular till a few months since. In January last went into a hospital for the diseases of women, and was under the care of a surgeon, who examined her with an instrument, the name of which she did not hear. What application was made to the womb she does not know; but she left in three weeks worse than when she entered. Afterwards went to another institution, where she was examined by the physician, and informed that she was suffering from nothing but weakness. <i>Present State.</i>—Is suffering from hysteria without any organic disease of any organ.
264	— Aug. 26, 1856.	Married; one child.	49	<i>Previous History.</i>—Enjoyed good health till the winter before last. Catamenia then became profuse, without pain. Consulted a practitioner at Belfast, who insisted upon examining with the speculum, and his report was "that there was some pustule which he cauterized," and recovery took place. Made a journey to the Continent, and was perfectly regular till Christmas, when the discharge again became excessive; came to Dublin, and consulted a physician, who examined her with the speculum and said "one of the lips of the womb was excoriated, and that in two months she would be quite well." Cauterization was then repeatedly employed, and on returning home to Belfast caustic was applied twelve times, and she was allowed to go about all the time while under

this treatment. Left Ireland last month, and has suffered from long exposure to a heated and confined atmosphere in the country in a crowded assembly. Since then has suffered from great irritation about the bladder. *Present State*.—Perineum extensively lacerated. The os uteri is healthy, but it is low in the vagina and resting unusually upon the rectum; and between the upper part of the vagina and the neck of the uterus behind there is a band of adhesion, which must have been the result of some injury during the labour twenty-seven years ago, or of the caustic at Belfast and Dublin.

Previous History.—Has been an invalid for nine years. Was long under the care of a deceased physician, who stated "that she was suffering from a shortening of one of the lateral ligaments of the womb." She was kept long upon her back, and had belladonna applied internally twice a week. Consulted a practitioner in the country, who expressed a suspicion that there was something wrong about the womb. The catamenia were regular but painful, and there was leucorrhœa. Remained fifteen months under his care, and took various remedies, without any decided benefit; then consulted a physician in London, who examined her with the speculum, and said there was inflammation of the uterus; had three leeches applied to the groins every fourteen days for six months; had injections and a warm bath every second morning. Did not derive any benefit from this treatment, and returned home, and then went to Paris. In 1850 consulted a physician—accoucheur in London, and was four months under his care. He examined her with the speculum, and said she had slight chronic inflammation and ulceration of the uterus, and caustic was frequently applied. It was applied more than thirty times, and it was always followed by great pain. No benefit whatever was derived from this treatment, except that the hysterical symptoms from which she had suffered were diminished. Returned home in November, 1850; consulted the same practitioner, who said there was still inflammation and ulceration. Four months in 1851 were spent in London under his care, and another course of speculum and caustic treatment of four months' duration. During the greater part of this time the caustic was applied twice a week. Was no better, though considered by the practitioner to be so. Afterwards was under the care of a homœopathic practitioner, and subsequently, during fifteen months, had another severe course of speculum and caustic treatment. *Present State*.—Has great tenderness along the upper part of the spine and is suffering from hysteria. There is no organic disease or displacement of the uterus. Catamenia regular; pain in the back, and inside of thighs; difficulty in evacuating the contents of the bladder and rectum.

265

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Aug. 27,
1856.

Single.

30

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
266	— Aug. 28, 1856.	Married eight years; sterile.	30	<i>Previous History.</i>—In good health till her marriage; catamenia irregular. Has for a time had great pain when the bowels are relieved. Twelve months ago consulted a practitioner in London, who examined her with the speculum, and said there was disease of the womb, and that if this had not been attended to she might have had ulceration. Caustic was applied, which she thought did her "a great deal of benefit." She remained two months under his care; "but never got well." The leucorrhœa has been very great ever since, and she suffered from pain of the back. <i>Present State.</i>—Os uteri smooth and healthy; vagina in the natural state, and no disease about the external parts. There is a painful hemorrhoidal tumour, which appears to be the principal cause of the irritation. <i>Previous History.</i>—General health good, and catamenia regular. For some time previous to the commencement of the present year had felt pains about the loins and bottom of the stomach when standing much and walking about; but did not apply to any medical practitioner until the beginning of this year, when she consulted one in the country, who informed her that she had ulceration of the womb, which caused great alarm. Leeches were repeatedly applied internally, and caustic was afterwards used and repeated at various intervals. Seventeen weeks kept on a sofa. Eleven weeks since last application of caustic. <i>Present State.</i>—Leucorrhœa profuse; "the uterus is enlarged and bulging on the left side; but not to a great extent, nor very hard. The os flatulous and elongated to the right; jagged a little." <i>Previous History.</i>—Four years ago, at the time of her second marriage, quite well, and continued well till January last, when a great discharge from the vagina took place without pain. Applied to a London practitioner, who examined her with the speculum, and said the womb was ulcerated. Three months under his care, during which time she was frequently cauterised. Then consulted a hospital surgeon, who examined with the speculum, and applied caustic for ulceration of the womb. The speculum was used twice a week, and the caustic applied; and she was under his care two months. Then consulted another practitioner, who examined her both with and without the speculum, and then wrote to me his opinion that she was affected with carcinomatous ulceration of the uterus. <i>Present State.</i>—I examined without the speculum, and found the vagina and uterus extensively disorganised with cancerous ulceration. <i>Previous History.</i>—Enjoyed good health before her marriage, two years ago. During eighteen
267	— August, 1856.	Married; sterile.	40	
268	— Sept. 8, 1856.	Married twice; three children.	34	
269	—	Married;	22	

270	Sept. 3, 1856.	sterile.	22	months has had a yellow discharge from the vagina. In apparent good health, and does not complain of any uneasiness. Consulted two medical practitioners in the country, who reported that she was suffering from inflammation of the uterus. Leeches were applied internally. This was six months ago. She was then examined with the speculum, and informed that there was ulceration of the uterus. Was kept six weeks in the recumbent position, and was cauterized twice a week for seven weeks. The leucorrhœa did not diminish after this in the slightest degree. Ten weeks ago she came to London and consulted a physician, who examined her with the speculum, and said there was "a granulated complaint of the womb." Caustic has been very frequently applied. No better after this treatment. <i>Present State</i>.—Vagina healthy; os uteri small, smooth, and regular; cervix in the most healthy condition, no trace of any ulceration ever having existed. <i>Previous History</i>.—Was born in a hot climate, and has been extremely delicate through life. Nine years ago had inflammation of the lungs, and it was feared she would die of consumption at Madeira. In 1845, had swellings of the leg and neck, when she arrived in London; and she consulted a practitioner, by whom she was told, after being examined with the speculum, that her case was one of great importance. The speculum and caustic, she reports, have been used dozens of times. She is said to have inflammation and ulceration of the womb. <i>Present State</i>.—Hymen completely destroyed. Uterus perfectly healthy.
271	Oct. 10, 1856.	Married; sterile.	27	<i>Previous History</i>.—Married seven months, and never pregnant. Enjoyed good health till the age of twenty-one, except suffering at the monthly periods; the catamenia were sometimes irregular, and she was hysterical. The pain was chiefly in the left side of the abdomen and left leg, and the legs were swelled. The medical attendant of the family was consulted, and he said by her look he knew there was something wrong about the womb. A digital examination was first made, and then the speculum was employed, and the opinion was given that ulceration of the neck of the womb existed. Thirteen times she was cauterized, and once had leeches applied internally. She was six months in the recumbent position. Her medical attendant then affirmed positively that the ulceration was "cured," and that she was perfectly well; but she felt worse than before the ulceration and caustic treatment commenced, and there was great inflammation of the external parts. Has never been able since to walk any distance, or to exert herself as before twenty-one. Since her marriage the catamenia have been irregular, and she has had great pain in the back, and there has been a bloody and yellow discharge from the vagina. On the 7th of October, examined by a surgeon, who reported "that the speculum revealed nothing." <i>Present State</i>.—No displacement of the uterus. The anterior lip appears to be entirely gone. The posterior lip is perfectly smooth and healthy. Whether the anterior lip had been destroyed by potassa fusa, or by what means it had disappeared, uncertain.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
272	— Oct. 9, 1856.	Married; six children, and two miscarriages.	37	<i>Previous History.</i>—Healthy appearance. Reports, that ten years ago she got up too soon after her third confinement. Seven months after was examined with the speculum by a physician, and told she had an ulcer of the womb. She was suffering from general debility, and could not walk, and had leucorrhœa, to which she had long been subject, and depression of spirits. The catamenia were regular. "She was four months under the speculum and caustic treatment, and lay up the greater part of that time." Was cauterized twice a week. Became pregnant again about eighteen months after; went to the full period, and was safely delivered. About three months after her delivery, consulted another practitioner, and another course of speculum and caustic treatment of nearly the same duration was gone through under his direction. Under this appeared to get well. Afterwards miscarried with twins. The ulcers did not appear again. Was confined with another child, and not long after the ulcers again began to appear; and she consulted the same practitioner, and underwent another long course of speculum and caustic treatment. Had another miscarriage, and another child, born December twelve months. The labour natural, and afterwards went on well till the seventh week, and "then began to feel that there was another ulcer coming." She knew this "from the weight in the lower part of the abdomen and pricking pains." From December to June was under the care of the same practitioner, during the whole of which the treatment with the speculum and caustic went on once a week. It was well nearly once or twice, but as soon as an ulcer got well another appeared; and this happened four times. Is now under the care of a homœopathic physician. <i>Present State.</i>—In good general health, and no disease or trace of disease about the uterus. The mind disordered.
273	— Oct. 25, 1856.	Married; sterile.	40	<i>Previous History.</i>—Has been ill since last January. Not strong for years, the constitution having been injured by a residence in the West Indies. Had suffered from leucorrhœa. Has been for a time under the care of a physician in London, who has examined her with the speculum, and has been informed that she is labouring under ovarian and uterine congestion, and that the mouth of the womb is ulcerated. Caustic was applied once every week during February and April, when she had a miscarriage, having been pregnant during the whole time this treatment was pursued. Has been very ill ever since, and has now placed herself under the care of a homœopathic practitioner, by whom I was requested to determine both with and without the speculum the condition of

the uterine organs. *Present State*.—Uterus low down; orifice open, so that the finger passes readily within the cervix; no hardness felt; the lips smooth and regular all round. No blood nor pus upon the finger after the examination. With the speculum the orifice was seen open, and a quantity of white fluid escaping from it. Lips perfectly healthy.

Previous History.—The age of the youngest child two years. Appears in perfect health, but states that she has been suffering from pain in the back more than twelve months, and that there has been a great discharge between the monthly periods, which have been regular. Has had a miscarriage since the birth of her youngest child. Was under the care of a medical practitioner eight months, and injections were employed. Last January examined with the speculum by a medical man, and informed that she had excoriation of the womb, "not what he would call ulcers." Was cauterized, but not more than four times. The speculum was used much oftener. The discharge was increased during the treatment, and it has since been of a greenish colour, and offensive; and there has been great pain of the back and sense of bearing down. Had spent three years in India. *Present State*.—The uterus is lower down than natural, and the fundus resting upon the rectum. The os uteri unusually open. The lips are soft and smooth, and in a healthy condition; but the glands of the cervix are enlarged, and on the right side one of them is hard.

Previous History.—Left her situation as governess, some time since, in consequence, according to her statement, of the catamenia being profuse, and "knobs in the groins." Was twelve months under the care of a physician, somewhere in London, who examined her frequently with an instrument, and said there was ulceration of the womb. Derived no benefit from the treatment. Doubtful if she was cauterized. *Present State*.—Hysterical. No disease of uterus detected.

Previous History.—Ever since the birth of her child, two years ago, has suffered from indisposition, and has been very nervous and hysterical. No leucorrhœa. Not long ago saw a medical practitioner in London, who examined her with the speculum, and declared that she had extensive ulceration of the uterus, and that "he would cure the disease in two years," if she would submit to the necessary treatment; and that he would require to see the patient twice a week during the whole of that time. *Present State*.—The perinæum has been partially destroyed. At the anterior part of the cicatrix there are two large painful excrescences growing. The whole vagina exquisitely tender to the touch. Complains of a constant sense of bearing down. Great difficulty in getting the bowels relieved. Pain in the hypogastric region. Uterus healthy.

37

Married;
four children.—
Oct. 31,
1856.

274

28

Single.

—
Nov. 4,
1856.

275

28

Married;
one child.—
Nov. 15,
1856.

276

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
277	— Dec. 3, 1856.	Married; sterile.	35	<i>Previous History.</i>—Has spent a number of years in India, from which she has recently returned; and the following is the report of the case drawn up by her medical attendant, 2d of September, 1856: "Mrs. — was under my care during part of the months of March and April, on account of a bronchitic attack, and at the same time complained of irregularity of the menstrual functions, said to have been present more or less ever since a miscarriage, two or three years previously. On careful examination I found some hardness of the cervix, with such contraction of the canal as not to admit of the introduction of the smallest sized bougie for more than half an inch of its extent. There was slight tenderness of the cervix on pressure; but no other departure from a normal state of the parts could be detected. During the short period when under my immediate observation, the treatment consisted of local depletion, by scarification of the os three or four times; the application of Tinct. witon., once or twice, with the use of tonics, cod-liver oil at intervals. By the end of the month the cervix was softer and less tender, but the sound could not be passed. Cold water injections locally, with cod-liver oil internally, were afterwards continued; and in a short time the menstrual functions became more regular, and the general health much improved." <i>Present State.</i>—The health much injured by the climate of India. Uterine organs in the state in which they are usually found in sterile women.
278	— Dec. 4, 1856.	Married; seven children.	32	<i>Previous History.</i>—Has suffered from dangerous hæmorrhage after three confinements. Since the last, born in February, has suffered from great pain of the back and constant discharge of yellow matter. Has several times been examined with the speculum;—the first time, six weeks after her confinement, when it was stated that there was "decided ulceration," and caustic was applied three times, which was followed by intense pain; leeches were afterwards applied twice to the os uteri; twelve the first time, and six the second. After this a small tumour formed on the inside of one of the legs below the knee, which ulcerated, and afterwards healed up. <i>Present State.</i>—The os uteri is very irregular; behind it appears that a laceration had taken place, the edges of which are hard and projecting. Both lips are hard and irregular, but no tendency to cancerous disease. Body of uterus not enlarged.
279	—	Married.	53	<i>Previous History.</i>—Consulted a physician-accoucheur in London four or five years ago, and not

obtaining benefit, she has, in the last three years, been seen by another, by whom she has been treated for ulceration of the womb. Four years ago, when under the care of the physician first referred to, she was said to have slight ulceration of the womb; and there were painful growths about the urethra, which were removed. *Present State.*—There is no organic disease of the urethra, vagina, or uterus to be detected, but there is an exquisite degree of tenderness about the orifice of the urethra and vagina.

Previous History.—Reported by her ordinary medical attendant to have been under treatment by eight physicians and surgeons in London of eminence in this department of practice. Was confined about ten years ago, and was delivered with instruments, and the perineum was lacerated. Suffered afterwards severely from inflammation of the parts. Three months afterwards consulted the physician by whom she had been delivered, and he introduced a pessary, which added "ten-fold to her sufferings." The pessary remained several months, but the inflammation increasing, she saw another practitioner, who removed the pessary, examined her with the speculum, and said there was ulceration of the womb. Deriving no benefit from a long course of speculum and caustic treatment, she consulted another practitioner, who applied leeches to the mouth of the womb, which bled profusely, and left great irritation. Then he introduced a pessary of India-rubber, which produced great distress. Then suppositories were used, and injections. No medical treatment was adopted for a year, and then she was ordered to see another practitioner, who applied leeches after examining her with the speculum; afterwards caustic for a whole year. The caustic was applied twice a week for six months, during which time there was great discharge. This ended in 1851. Then consulted another physician, who examined her with the speculum, and recommended her to go to Kreuznach and drink the waters. Was there two months, but the waters disagreed with the stomach. The baths were taken. *Present State.*—The perineum has been partially torn, and the part is now very tender to the touch, but not inflamed. Vagina sound. On the right side of the os uteri there is a considerable rent or fissure, which has probably been produced by the forceps in the labour. This part of the os exquisitely painful when pressed. Body of uterus not enlarged nor indurated.

Previous History.—Health injured in early life by a severe attack of fever. Catamenia regular since eighteen. At twenty-four, was supposed to be labouring under consumption; afterwards had rheumatic fever, and then the cough disappeared. Then supposed to have disease of the heart; its walls said to be thin. Has at different times had severe hysterical attacks. Dangerous flooding after the birth of last child, in June. Has for some months been under the care of a

Dec. 5,
1856.

280

Married;
one child.

34

—
Dec. 11,
1856.

281

Married;
several
children.

41

—
Dec. 24,
1856.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
282	— Jan. 12, 1857.	Married; several children.	Mid- dle.	London physician-accoucheur, by whom the speculum and caustic have been employed frequently. The last application of caustic to the os uteri for ulceration was made yesterday. <i>Present State.</i>—The patient is now anxious to know whether she is suffering from ovarian or uterine disease. On examination of the abdomen no enlargement nor hardness could be felt in any part. As the speculum and caustic had been employed the day before, she was requested to return in a month to have the second part of her inquiry ascertained. The refusal to examine the uterus gave great offence. The mind disordered. <i>Previous History.</i>—While in the gravid state, underwent a long course of speculum and caustic treatment for ulceration of the uterus. The existence of pregnancy not ascertained during this time, and not interrupted. The labour was natural, so she has recovered; but a suspicion still entertained that ulceration exists. <i>Present State.</i>—No disease of the uterus; sea-air recommended.
283	— Jan. 19, 1857.	Married; two children.	44	<i>Previous History.</i>—Second labour protracted and catheter required. Thirteen months ago, soon after delivery, observed something peculiar about the abdomen. At the end of the month had pain in the right side of the abdomen; hæmorrhage from the uterus then took place. In the early part of the autumn came to London and saw a surgeon, who thought there was a deep abscess forming above the right groin. Gradually a hard angular tumour became perceptible on the right side of the hypogastrium, and it was accompanied with much pain, and she lost appetite and flesh; came to London again a week ago, when it was ascertained that there was a large, hard, irregular tumour fixed in the abdomen, low down on the right side, fixed to the iliac fossa. The os and cervix uteri were likewise ascertained to be affected with cancerous ulceration. There had been great pain within the pelvis, and for some time profuse, bloody, offensive discharge from the vagina; the speculum had been employed, and ulceration seen. It was proposed by her medical attendant occasionally to cauterize the carcinomatous ulceration of the os uteri through the speculum, to alter the malignant action going on in the part now in an advanced stage. <i>Present State.</i>—A large cancerous tumour in the right side of the abdomen, and the os and cervix uteri and a small portion of the vagina disorganized by cancer. It was not considered possible to alter by caustic the disease set up in this part, and it was recommended that the speculum and caustic should not be employed.

284	— Feb. 5, 1857.	Married; sterile.	37	<i>Previous History.</i>—Had a severe attack of dysentery eight years ago. Since then has suffered from indigestion; catamenia have been regular. Last February suffered from headache and hemorrhoids. Since then has been under a long course of speculum and caustic treatment for ulceration of the womb. In September was first examined with the instrument. About the close of the year the ulceration was reputed to be cured, and she took cod-liver oil, and feels somewhat better. Still she cannot walk; has pain in the right groin and back. <i>Present State.</i>—No hardness nor enlargement of the abdomen. The uterus is small, as in most barren women; the lips flat and smooth. No trace of any ulceration.
285	— March 25, 1857.	Married; sterile.	26	<i>Previous History.</i>—In good health till her marriage, which took place eight months ago; and has suffered from no indisposition since, except great pain at the monthly periods, and some irritation about the bladder; no leucorrhœa. Consulted for this a practitioner four months ago, who examined her with the speculum, and told her there was ulceration of the womb. She has, ever since, been under speculum and caustic treatment. <i>Present State.</i>—The os uteri is small; the lips smooth; the orifice closed; there is no ulceration or disease of any kind.
286	— April 21, 1857.	Married; eight children.	45	<i>Previous History.</i>—Some years since consulted a London practitioner, who examined her with the speculum, and declared that there was ulceration of the womb, and the speculum and caustic were employed twice a week for ten months, and nitrate of silver and iodine were occasionally employed. Afterwards consulted another physician, who declared there had never been any ulceration, but that there was ovarian disease suspected. <i>Present State.</i>—Right lobe of liver large and tender; uterus and ovaries apparently sound.
287	— April 4, 1857.	Single.	50	<i>Previous History.</i>—Catamenia ceased twelve months ago; great irritation of the external parts followed, and leucorrhœa, and pricking pains internally. A surgeon examined her with the speculum, and told her she had ulceration of the womb. A course of speculum and caustic treatment of three months' duration; afterwards took iodide of potassium. <i>Present State.</i>—The symptoms continue. Doubtful if there be not some organic disease of the uterus commencing.
288	— April 23, 1857.	Married; four miscarriages and one pre- mature child.	34	<i>Previous History.</i>—Married seven years before she became pregnant. Four miscarriages afterwards took place; ever since catamenia irregular, and leucorrhœa, and the health impaired. A practitioner made an examination with the speculum, and informed her that the uterus was retroverted. Then followed a twelvemonth's course of speculum and caustic treatment for ulceration. No benefit. <i>Present State.</i>—Os uteri irregular. No hardness as in incipient schirrus.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and State of Uterine Organs.
289	— April 30, 1857.	Married; one child; several miscarriages.	27	<i>Previous History.</i>—Repeated miscarriages since the birth of her child, in 1855, with profuse discharges of blood from the uterus, which left her in a state of great general weakness. In March, 1856, consulted a physician, who examined her with the speculum, and stated that ulceration of the uterus existed, and that to this the miscarriages were to be attributed. The speculum and caustic were used upwards of thirty times in less than six weeks. Soon after the ulceration was reported to be cured she became pregnant again, and miscarried about the fourth month, and great hæmorrhage followed, which threatened her life. She has gradually rallied. <i>Present State.</i>—Os uteri so open that the finger can readily be passed; lips soft and smooth, and no disease felt within the cervix; the lips, seen through the speculum, pale and healthy; a small clot of blood hanging through the os.
290	— April 30, 1857.	Married; no children.	28	<i>Previous History.</i>—In good health before marriage, twelve months ago. Catamenia regular. Consulted a physician on account of an eruption of inflamed pimples on the external parts and leucorrhœa, which had existed for years. Two months ago had a bilious attack, for which she saw the same practitioner, who said he thought she had inflammation of the womb. He examined with the speculum, and said his suspicions were confirmed. Immediately after he came once a week for five weeks, and applied caustic. The discharge was very great after each application of the caustic. He predicted she would be well in six weeks; but at this period she was much worse than when the treatment commenced. Catamenia profuse. Has suffered when the bowels are relaxed. <i>Present State.</i>—General health unsatisfactory. Glands of neck swollen. Vagina healthy; no displacement. Os uteri soft, but somewhat rough, and exquisitely tender.
291	— April 30, 1857.	Married; five children.	31	<i>Previous History.</i>—Had retention of the placenta in her second confinement. Ever since has had uneasiness on the left side. Catamenia have been very painful, and the discharge irregular, and leucorrhœa ever since—a white viscid fluid in lumps. Two years ago consulted a practitioner, who first prescribed tonics, without examining the uterus. Afterwards examined with the speculum, and declared that there was ulceration; and applied caustic, which gave great pain. No benefit derived. This treatment was stopped, and another practitioner consulted, who declared that there was no ulceration, and never had been any. <i>Present State.</i>—Os uteri open, and very irregular; hardness felt within the cervix on the anterior part.

292	— May 6, 1857.	Married; one child.	35	<i>Previous History.</i> —Was married a second time, between two and three years since, and enjoyed good health till about twelve months since, when she contracted gonorrhœa from her husband. After suffering from this for some time, she consulted a practitioner, who examined her with the speculum, and informed her that she was labouring under ulceration of the uterus, which excited the greatest alarm in her mind, from a dread that she had cancer, a relative having died of this disease. During the months of August, September, and October, the speculum and caustic were employed twice a week, and after this went fifty miles into the country every week till Christmas, to have the caustic applied. She has been nervous and depressed in the highest degree. <i>Present State.</i> —Os uteri soft and smooth. Neck of uterus unusually hard and swollen.
293	— May 12, 1857.	Married; five children.	40	<i>Previous History.</i> —Enjoyed good health till about a year ago, when she began to suffer from uneasiness in the lower part of the abdomen, and had constant sanguineous discharge. In November last had profuse discharges of fluid and coagulated blood from the vagina, with more pain and loss of general strength. About a month ago went into the country and consulted a surgeon, who, after examining with the speculum, informed her that the womb was ulcerated. Caustic was not applied, but injections of decoction of oak-bark and alum. <i>Present State.</i> —The os and cervix uteri and vagina extensively disorganized by carcinoma. The speculum not required to discover this.
294	— Saint George's Hospital. 1855.	Married; one child.	22	<i>Previous History.</i> —Miscarried with twins a year and ten months ago; since has had a serious illness with jaundice five months; having for some time had leucorrhœa, with gnawing pain about the left anterior superior spine and ilium, and "falling down of the womb;" became an out-patient of an hospital for the diseases of women. Was examined with the speculum by the physician, and informed she had ulceration of the womb, complicated with tumour; the speculum was frequently introduced; leeches were applied to the os uteri through the speculum; when the operation had been performed three times, it was found that the instrument could no longer be introduced on account of the tenderness and swelling caused by the previous treatment; leeches were therefore applied without the tube, and the most alarming hæmorrhage followed. <i>Present State.</i> —Has had constant sanguineous discharge till very recently; has continued pain, like that of labour, in the back and left side of the abdomen; globus hystericus, and nervous palpitation and hysteric fits; os uteri a little enlarged and tender; uterus perfectly moveable; cervix a little hardened on right side; spongy state of os uteri. Left the hospital greatly relieved.

No.	Date.	Civil Condition.	Age.	Previous Symptoms, Treatment, and Present State of the Uterine Organs.
295	— Saint George's Hospital. 1855.	Married; two children.	34	<i>Previous History.</i>—Soon after her confinement had pains in the abdomen, dragging sensation about the pelvis, and leucorrhœa; palpitation and globus hystericus. These symptoms continued four years; then consulted a practitioner, who examined her with the speculum, and said he discovered an ulcer of the os uteri as large as half-a-crown. During four months caustic was applied through the speculum three times a fortnight, after which the ulcer was said to be healed; yet she did not find the symptoms at all alleviated. A second child born two years after, and this was followed by a small abscess in the vulva, which spontaneously burst; the former symptoms returned, and she underwent another three months' course of speculum and caustic; has been worse since. Was examined with the speculum immediately after admission, and the report was "that the ulcer was still found there." <i>Present State.</i>—Apparently in perfect health; band (the result of caustic) felt connecting the mucous membrane of the posterior wall of the vagina with the back part of the cervix uteri; slight fissure felt in posterior lip; os quite smooth; excessive depression.
296	— Saint George's Hospital. Oct. 24, 1855.	Married; widow, one child, and one miscarriage.	37	<i>Previous History.</i>—Great hæmorrhage accompanied the miscarriage, which took place about three years ago. During the last three months there has been a constant yellow discharge, with pain in the loins, and darting and shooting pain down the right thigh; has been under treatment at a hospital, where the speculum and caustic were used every Thursday for seven weeks; and the last application was about five weeks ago, after which she left, not finding any relief whatever. <i>Present State.</i>—The os uteri is almost absent, the cervix is slightly harder than natural; the posterior is small, irregular, and not hard; the cervix is slightly harder than natural; the body is lying somewhat forward. Ocular inspection;—both lips are nearly absent; the posterior is red, but there is no ulceration. Discharged greatly relieved on November 27th, 1855.
297	— Saint George's Hospital. Oct. 24, 1855.	Married; one child.	24	<i>Previous History.</i>—Enjoyed good health till twelve months ago, when she had a difficult labour, and the delivery was completed by craniotomy. Since her confinement has had a yellow discharge, with pain in the lower part of back and thighs, and bearing down. Went to a dispensary, where a surgeon on her first visit examined with the speculum, and said there was ulceration, and applied caustic, this was done almost every week for two months; after the last application the parts became so painful that she was unable to leave her bed for three weeks; then salivated, and had eight leeches to the hypogastrium; has had cough and expectoration. <i>Present State.</i>—Weak and nervous; want of breathing in the chest, particularly on the left side; the os uteri is

swollen, hard, tender, and extremely irregular; there is no ulceration, and no escape of blood. November 15th, os uteri is not swollen, much more natural, and free from pain.

Previous History.—Her illness, by report, commenced seven years ago, after her last confinement, in which recourse was had to instruments, and was followed by milk fever and "inflammation of the womb and bladder," and she was scarcely able to leave her bed for twelve months. She applied for admission into a hospital, where she remained eleven months with inflammation and enlargement of the womb, during which time she was salivated; was cauterized almost every week, and had a great number of leeches applied internally by means of a tube. Difficulty of passing the urine took place, and the catheter was required. Recovered slowly and partially till three months ago, when she was seized with "throbbing and stabbing pain" in the lower part of the abdomen and back, and afterwards uterine hæmorrhage. *Present State.*—Weak and nervous; difficulty in passing urine; catamenia regular; a dark-coloured discharge; abdomen distended and painful on pressure; globus hystericus; no tumour felt; os irregular and nodulated; cervix rather hard; the posterior lip is very irregular and nodulated; uterus moveable and not enlarged; there is no ulceration.

Previous History.—Ten days after the last labour, four years ago, was seized with excessive pain in the abdomen, with fever, and has never been well since. Became worse twelve months ago, and had bearing-down pains, with violent pains of the abdomen and loins, and leucorrhœa; she was then under the care of a practitioner, who used the speculum five or six times, and some red fluid; afterwards the womb was scarified, by which she lost much blood. Has been much worse since this treatment. *Present State.*—Pains continue, with leucorrhœa; os uteri high up, irregular, and flat; a small spongy mass springing from inside of anterior lip; hysterical attacks.

Previous History.—Her illness commenced six months ago, with a kind of sawing pain in both hips, which has continued to get worse ever since, and extends round the lower part of the back. Three months ago suddenly attacked with a severe flooding, which has occurred three times; catamenia have always been regular; has been under the care of a practitioner, who examined her with the speculum, and said she had ulceration of the womb; on several occasions he introduced the speculum, and applied "stick caustic," causing her great pain, and doing no good whatever. *Present State.*—Appears stout and muscular; complains of the same pains, and bearing down; has now a little sanguineous discharge; uterus moveable; on right side of os a hard, projecting mass; on left side, os and cervix are extensively disorganized and excavated; the vagina is not much involved in the disease.

298

Married;
several
children.—
Saint
George's
Hospital
Feb. 21,
1856.

35

299

Married;
five children.—
Saint
George's
Hospital.

35

300

Married;
three children.—
Saint
George's
Hospital.

37

