

THE
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Original Articles.

ON PESSARIES.

By W. V. JAKINS, L.R.C.P., L.M. Edin., Fell. Obst. Soc. Lond.

(Continued.)

I now purpose giving my experience of the instruments I have been using for the last twelve years, and I trust that other men will put on record the results they have obtained from the pessaries they have employed, for it is utterly impossible for any one man to have put to thorough practical proof the multiplicity of instruments now to be obtained. My own list contains more than fifty different sorts, and I have read of a list of nearly one hundred and fifty pessaries. Yet ordinarily I find that I have recourse to but comparatively few from which to select an instrument suitable for the treatment of the cases that present themselves from day to day. For convenience I will divide the instruments I employ into three sets—those that require some external fixing, vaginal pessaries, and intra-uterine stems. Of these three sorts the one I most prefer is the vaginal pessary, which is free from the inconveniences of external instruments, which does not interfere with conception, and can, as a rule, be worn without change, if necessary, for years; it is perfectly under the control of the patient, and is not liable to induce metritis, an accident which not unfrequently happens with intra-uterine stems. Of vaginal pessaries, I will begin with *Blackbee's patent spring pessary*, each of which I have received, with a card affixed denoting its number, and signed by the inventor. These words follow:—"By slight manipulation, the conformation and power may be adjusted to all malpositions of the womb. In sizes 1, 2, 3." It is in shape like a pelvis without sides, a spring wire covered with black rubber and stamped "Blackbee's Patent." In lateral malpositions it is useless, being not possessed of side parts. Unless the vagina be capacious, it is difficult to introduce;

it therefore cannot be employed in the unmarried. Neither can it be moulded so as to press on certain parts and to avoid others. Even when comfortably fixed, it very frequently slips inwards, producing wrong support and requiring removal; not uncommonly it falls out altogether. Nevertheless, if these difficulties can be overcome, it is a very valuable instrument in those cases, unfortunately too common, where hardened fæces will displace a ring pessary, also where the rectum will not admit of pressure, and where support, on account of vaginal tenderness, can only be given in front and behind the cervix uteri. I am told that it is now made of flexible metal, so that its tendency to slip and fall out can be readily dealt with. Yet the aforementioned imperfections have prevented me making use of it, unless in exceptional cases.

Ballarat, September 1879.

Medical Society of Victoria.

SPECIAL MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1879.

(Hall of the Society.)

Present: Dr. Singleton, Mr. Webb, Dr. Fulton, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Hewlett, Dr. Bowen, Dr. LeFevre, Mr. A'Beckett, Mr. Girdlestone, Dr. Embling, Mr. Fletcher, Dr. Graham, Mr. Rudall, Dr. Wood, Dr. Maberley Smith, Dr. Jamieson, Dr. Moloney, Mr. Gillbee, Dr. Morrison, Dr. Fyffe, Dr. McMillan, Mr. W. Barker, Dr. Cutts, Dr. Alsop, Dr. Molloy, Dr. Rowan, Dr. Cobb, Dr. J. P. Ryan, Dr. Balls-Headley, Dr. Bennie, Dr. Turner, Mr. Gray, Dr. Williams, Dr. Snowball, Dr. C. Ryan, Mr. Garrard, Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Phillips.

The President, Mr. Fitzgerald, in the chair.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Committee had, with deep regret, accepted the resignation by Dr. Neild of the office of Honorary Secretary to the Society, and he introduced Dr. Bennie, who had been chosen to succeed him.

The SECRETARY then read the following resolution, which had been carried unanimously at the last meeting of the Committee:

“That in recognition of the valuable services rendered by Dr. Neild for many years as Honorary Secretary to the Medical Society of Victoria, this Committee recommends that Dr. Neild be