

clean; in fact, it seems very probable that they were not even washed. It is impossible, however, to leave a patient to die, and so very often a Cæsarean Section is performed as the only possible chance of saving her life. It is no wonder, under these conditions, that the death rate is high, and we have many disappointments. On the other hand, some of them do remarkably well; for example, one woman came in who had been six days in labour. She had Cæsarean Section with hysterectomy performed, and made an uneventful recovery.

The following case is typical of the progressive nature of the disease. A woman who lived in a village ten miles (30 li) from here had a child born normally at home, assisted by the usual Chinese midwife. The next time she was in labour we were sent for, and the child was delivered with forceps. Two years later the same woman arrived here in labour, with an arm presenting, which had evidently been well pulled on! Nothing could be done to save the child, and a destructive operation was performed. Had she come earlier, a Cæsarean Section would have been done, that being her only chance of having a full-term living child. She was very carefully warned, however, during her stay with us, to come early the next time she was pregnant and not to wait until she was in labour. She came again two years later, before labour had commenced, and a Cæsarean Section was performed. At that time, even a destructive operation would have been quite impossible, as the pelvis was very much more contracted than at the previous operation. She got on very well, and her general condition improved from that time onwards. She had no more pains in back and legs, and could get about very much better. The operation was performed in 1916. A few months ago she came to see us and was still well.

The custom here is that each patient suffering with Osteomalacia who has a Cæsarean Section is sterilised—by cutting and tying the fallopian tubes. This is done because we cannot be sure, in the event of a subsequent pregnancy, of their coming back for a second operation, and

since with many it would be certain death if they could not obtain surgical aid, it seems unsafe not to sterilise, and, although it may sound somewhat unscientific, the patients greatly improve after this operation. This is probably accounted for by the fact that pregnancy aggravates the disease.

A case that will illustrate my meaning is that of Mrs., aged 24 years, who came to us in 1913, and had a Cæsarean Section performed. Her family were Mohammedans and belonged to the lower middle class. She was admitted in labour, and the history given was that, knowing she could not have a normal child, she had taken medicine to bring on labour at six months. On examination we found that it was quite impossible for even so small a child to be born normally. She was badly crippled, and to add to her many troubles, had a bad cough. The operation was performed and she made a good recovery, and in course of time left the hospital quite well. She was told that probably as time went on she would have less pain, and how true it was! For although it is over ten years ago since the Cæsarean Section was done, she has had no more pain, and, what impresses her so much, she is now able to walk about well and to do work, both of which were impossible before she came to the hospital. She still comes to see us, and, according to her own report, is a "new person." Of course we have no personal evidence of her condition before labour, as we did not see her until it had begun, but the pains in her back and legs all the time she was with us were so bad that she could not bear to be touched. Now she walks uprightly, and one would never suspect that she had suffered from Osteomalacia.

We do not have the opportunity to keep personally in touch with all these patients, but only with those who live in this city and in near-by villages. With those whom we know, however, the results are wonderful.

In 1922 we had a total of 108 midwifery cases in our hospital. Of these, over 30 were patients suffering from Osteomalacia, and for 18 of them Cæsarean Section was performed.