aged 26, who had received a blow on the left breast five years before. A tumour the size of a small orange had formed in the substance of the gland midway between the nipple and the axillary periphery, taking about six months for its development. It varied in size under excitement and menstruation, but was never smaller than as described above. It gave rise to severe spontaneous pain and was extremely sensitive to pressure. With its removal all these symptoms disappeared. Histologically it was a tubular adenoma with no cyst formation.

ON CATGUT SUTURES IN THE OPERATION FOR RUPTURED PERINEUM.

By G. ERNEST HERMAN, M.B.LOND., F.R.C.P.,
Obstetric Physician to the London Hospital, etc.

DURING the last few years I have done the operation for ruptured perineum in a manner somewhat different from that usually described. The method I now follow depends essentially upon the use of fine catgut for the sutures. I describe the operation as in a case of complete rupture through the rectal sphincter. I make the raw surface by splitting the recto-vaginal septum.¹ The raw surface so produced may be described as forming two triangles, a right and a left (C D E and G H E), the base of each (C D and G H) being the skin of the perineum, the sides being formed by the mucous membrane of the rectum and that of the vagina, the apices being truncated and meeting in the middle line. A line

Drawn by Dr. W. Ambrose Kibbler (diagrammatic).

(A B) may be imagined drawn through the middle of each triangle, so as to bisect its base; this line I shall mean when I speak of the middle of the raw surface. The first suture is entered at the junction of rectal mucous membrane and raw surface, close to the apex of the triangle, and brought out in the middle of the raw surface; entered again at the middle of the raw surface on the opposite side, and brought out as close as possible to the junction

¹ I learned this method of making the raw surface fourteen years ago, from my colleague, Mr. Waren Tay.

of raw surface and rectal mucous membrane. This suture is then tied, and the ends held out of the way with forceps. (The diagram shows the first suture passed, but not tied, and the second suture being put in. This is for the sake of pictorial clearness, but it is better to tie each suture before putting in the next, and it is convenient at this stage not to cut off the ends, because by them the parts can be pulled upon if it be wished.) The second suture is put in at the junction of vaginal mucous membrane and raw surface, brought out at the middle of the raw surface, a little nearer the base of the triangle than the first suture, entered at a corresponding point in the middle of the raw surface on the opposite side, and brought out as close as possible to the junction of vaginal mucous membrane and raw surface; this is then tied. The third suture is entered at the junction of rectal mucous membrane and raw surface, still nearer the base of the triangle, and so on, sutures being entered alternately from the rectal and vaginal aspect until the two triangles of raw surface have been completely brought into apposition. When all except a strip of raw surface parallel with the base of each triangle (C D, G H) has been brought together, the apposition of the bases is completed by transverse sutures, through the skin of the perineum. It is well not to tie the last pair of sutures (vaginal and rectal) until these transverse stitches have been put in. When the stitching is complete, the ends of all the sutures are cut short. The rectum is washed out twice a day for the next fortnight. The stitches are not removed. At the end of a fortnight usually all trace of them has disappeared.

For the majority of cases of complete perineal rupture, this mode of stitching, with fine catgut alone, is quite enough. But in some cases the laceration has been in the beginning attended with sloughing, and then there may be much cicatricial tissue about the parts which have to be brought together, so that they cannot be approximated without much strain on the stitches. In that case it is well, before sewing up with catgut, to pass a single deep stitch of silkworm-gut through the recto-vaginal septum in the usual way, so that this may relieve the strain on the fine catgut.

The chief advantage of this method of operating is that no sutures have to be removed; and in the bad cases last described, only one suture. The removal of wire sutures, and even of silkworm gut, causes a good deal of pain to the patient. By the use of a large number of stitches there is a larger surface brought into contact, there is less strain on each stitch, and little, if any, supuration in the suture tracks. The perineum produced is thicker and larger than that which results from the puckering effect of the ordinary method of suture. The only disadvantage of this method is that the operation takes rather longer in performance.

A continuous catgut suture has been recommended for recent rupture of the perineum; and it might also be used for the secondary operation. But it has this disadvantage, that if the catgut breaks, then the whole suturing has to be done over again; or if the knot slip, then the whole gets loose. With an interrupted suture as here described, if one stitch break, it is only that stitch which needs replacement; and if one or two knots should slip, the others hold the parts together, and it makes little difference.

For a rupture which does not go through the sphincter, only one set of stitches is required. Here the advantage of catgut is decided, for, the operation once done, all the after-treatment wanted is to keep the parts clean: no sutures have to be removed.

OBSTETRIC MEMORANDA.

ABORTION IN DOUBLE UTERUS.

CASES of double uterus are comparatively rare, but it is very probable that many of them are overlooked. The following is a brief record of a case which came under my observation lately, and which presents several points of interest.

Mrs. E., aged 28, consulted me on February 27th last, on account of severe metrorrhagia and pain in the lower part of the abdomen. Menstruation, which commenced at 14, was regular and painless until Christmas, 1887. At that time she had been married for four months and, although there had been no cessation of menstruation, she fancied, from a feeling of weight in the pelvis and a slight increase in size, that she was pregnant. On December 26th she was attacked with severe pelvic pain and