

ARTIFICIAL GENERATION IN THE HUMAN SPECIES.

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THE following is the substance of a notice of the "Allgemeine Medicin Central Zeitung," of a lecture of Dr. Girault, delivered before the "Societe Medicale des Pantheon:"

After Spallanzani and Rossi had injected, by means of a syringe, the semen of a dog into the vagina of a bitch, with the result of effecting pregnancy, Sims tried analogous experiments on human subjects, in cases of contraction of the cervical canal, flexion of the os-internum, etc. He commenced injecting from three to four

drops of seminal fluid, which quantity at last he reduced to half a drop. Of fifty-five injections made during two years on half a dozen patients, only one case was successful; but in the fourth month of pregnancy abortion occurred in consequence of a fall and fright. Sims thinks that half of the number of experiments were made badly, with unsuitable instruments, or under unfavorable circumstances, leaving one conception in twenty-seven experiments, and expressed his belief that with more knowledge and experience better results would be obtained.

Dr. Girauld, as appears from his lecture, has practiced artificial impregnation since 1838 with remarkable success. He tried it first successfully on bitches, and afterwards, at Floman's advice, on human subjects. His instrument was a hollow uterine sound, funnel-shaped at one end, and a little syringe; but he prefers to propel the sperm by blowing through the sound into the cervical canal. The woman is placed in a position such as for introduction of the speculum; the sound is introduced into the cervical canal under guidance of the left index finger. The following are some of the cases:

In the year 1838, the lecturer was consulted by Count L. in behalf of his daughter, twenty-three years old, who having been married for three years without having any children, felt so despondent about it as to threaten to give herself to the first one at random, in order to become at last a mother. The Doctor found on examination an abnormally long and very narrow cervix, and suggested gradual dilatation. This operation was objected to by the patient as requiring too much time, and the experiment of artificial impregnation consented to. On April 27th the first injection was made by means of a straightened and open male catheter; the semen of the Count was blown into the cervical canal of the Countess. This operation proving unsuccessful, a second injection was made June 5th, after which the Countess became *enciente*, and was delivered, on March 1st, 1839, of a healthy boy. 2d. In the year 1839, a wife twenty-five years old, having no children, came under the treatment of the lecturer. Four days after the last menstruation he made the first injection, which, like a second one, had no result. A third one, made one month later, proved successful, the lady being delivered at the proper time of a healthy boy. 3d. August 27th, 1840, the lecturer was consulted by a

musician, affected with hypospadias, in regard to the sterility of his wife, then twenty-four years old. The married couple having been left alone for some minutes, the semen of the husband, which had been gathered in a glass, was injected into the uterus. Conception ensued, which on March 30th, 1841, terminated in the birth of a girl. 4th. A woman twenty-seven years of age, having been married for seven years with a man sixty-five years old, without bringing forth children, was, after four injections had been made in vain, in consequence of the fifth operation, delivered at the proper time of twins, a girl who died within three months and a flourishing boy who lived. Since then the woman has not been pregnant. 5th. A woman twenty-six years old, having been married four years without having children, became pregnant after the second injection and gave birth to a healthy girl. 6th. A midwife, twenty-six years old, being affected with hypertrophy of the posterior lip of the os, had no children. In 1857, after artificial impregnation, she gave birth to a boy, and has not conceived since. 7th. The lecturer was as successful in the case of a woman thirty-five years old, whose husband was forty-six years of age. She gave birth to a boy after one injection. 8th. A woman twenty-nine years old was without children after six years' marriage; she suffered from fluor albus and descent of the womb. Artificial impregnation proved successful, and she became the mother of a girl. In two other cases, aged thirty-one and twenty nine, no result was obtained after respectively one and four injections.

The following are the final conclusions of Dr. Girault: *The human female can in like manner be impregnated artificially as the females of the different species of animals. The direct introduction of the semen into the uterus brings no danger to the woman. The spermatozoa live over forty hours, during which time they make their way through the uterus and tubes to the ovaries. Whenever on their passage they meet with the ovum they can fecundate it.—Medical Repertory.*