

Extraction of Foreign Bodies from the Vagina.—**Dr M. DIEFFENBACH.**—For this purpose the surgeon may commonly use his fingers or a polypus-forceps; but if the foreign body be bulky and wedged in, the bullet or lithotomy-forceps and broad hooks. The patient being seated upon the edge of a table, facing the light, with the thighs held widely apart by two assistants, the surgeon squirts a little oil into the vagina, examines the nature of the body with the fingers and speculum, then passes up the forceps previously oiled, gradually opens them, insinuating one blade behind the body, and finally withdraws it in the line of the pelvic axis. This is nowise difficult, when the body is not very irregular in shape, and the parts are not inflamed or swollen. Where, on the contrary, the vagina is contracted and deprived of elasticity through inflammation and puriform secretion, and the substance large, it must be broken up into fragments and taken away piecemeal.

After its removal the vagina ought to be well syringed, and the patient put into a warm bath. Mucilaginous decoctions may be subsequently injected, and the parts soomented with infusion of chamomile and Goulard lotion.

Foreign bodies in this situation are of every variety. If allowed to remain long, they determine inflammation, supuration, and rupture of the vagina, either into the rectum or the bladder. Thus communication with these cavities, and effusion of their contents into the vagina, is the obvious result. Foreign bodies, if sharp and angular, occasion now and then dangerous lesions. I once had to remove from a young lady a number of different-sized fragments of a porcelain urinal which had broken under her. The labia were severely wounded, and the vagina completely filled with the sheard. The hæmorrhage was so excessive as to have caused fainting. I extracted the whole by means of polypus-forceps, and inserted a few fine sutures. The wounds healed promptly. Large, incrustated, and firmly-adherent sponges were removed by me with lithotomy-forceps, as also a variety of full-sized wooden pessaries, all in like manner covered with a crust. Some of these I was obliged to break, using several forceps, with the aid of assistants, or else cut them in half with Liston's bone-scissors. Morand withdrew from a lady a silver pessary through the openings in which bridles had shot across, and held it fast. Dupuytren extracted from a nymphomaniac a pomatum pot; on another occasion an old ring-pessary, which was wedged in, and caused most urgent symptoms. A girl introduced the cone of a pine into the vagina. The sharp imbricated scales got lodged in the mucous membrane, and were picked out one by one after the cone had been cut in pieces. The vagina was excessively turgid.—*Medical Times.*