

**PAPERS ON THE
FEMALE
PERINEUM, ETC**

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Papers on the Female Perineum, etc by J. Matthews Duncan

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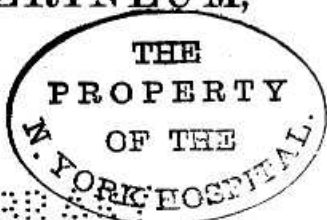
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J. MATTHEWS DUNCAN,

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LONDON:

J. & A. CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

1879.

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1879

TO
MY COLLEAGUES
IN
SAINT BARTHOLOMEWS HOSPITAL,
IN RECOGNITION OF
THE KINDNESS OF THEIR RECEPTION
IN
1877.

P R E F A C E.

SINCE the papers which form the chief part of this work were originally published, the author has undergone a somewhat sudden, and entirely unexpected translation from Edinburgh, and its Infirmary and Maternity Hospital, to London and to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Although his position and occupations in London are nearly identical with those he enjoyed in Edinburgh, yet the difference has been enough to entail some change in his plans. He contemplated a series of papers which, when collected, might have formed a nearly complete work on the subject which is only fragmentarily treated in this little volume; and he publishes it now as it stands, while it retains its freshness for himself, because he foresees for his spare hours full employment for a long time in a somewhat different gynæcological line of work.

The following references show when most of the chapters of this book made their appearance, before being furbished up for their present places.

“Remarks on the inevitable and other lacerations of the orifice of the vagina and near it, in primiparæ”: *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, March, 1876.

“On the lacerations of the external genital organs (except the hymen) during labour in primiparæ”: *The Obstetrical Journal of Great Britain and Ireland*, January, 1877.

“On central rupture of the perineum”: *Gynaecological Transactions*, vol. i. 1876.

“On rupture of the perineum, and especially in the division of the perineum and recto-vaginal septum by post-partum sloughing”: *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, April, 1876.

“On some of the relations of the foetal head to rupture of the perineum, and injuries of the external genital organs”: *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, February, 1877.

“Procidentia of the pelvic viscera”: *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, January, 1872.

“Case of procidentia uteri”: *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, July, 1877.

“The function of the perineum in procidentia uteri”: *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, February, 1871.

“The restoration of the perineum”: *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, November, 1871.

I have to express my sense of obligation to Dr. Clement Godson for the trouble he has taken in giving me valuable assistance in passing the work through the press.

71, BROOK STREET,
December, 1878.

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PAPERS
ON
THE FEMALE PERINEUM.

CHAPTER I.

Distinction of vaginal from vulvar orifice.—Remarks on the anatomy of the external parts.—Inevitable laceration of vaginal orifice in primipara.—Description of vulvar orifice.—Time of occurrence of ruptures.—Description of the inevitable laceration in primipara.—Causation of rupture.—Prevention of rupture.—Rare case.

THE orifice of the vagina and the obstetrical perineum, whose anterior edge or fourchette forms part of the vulvar orifice, have no direct connexion. Between them, that is, between the fourchette and the vaginal orifice, is interposed the fossa navicularis. The orifice of the vagina I believe to be invariably injured in the natural labour of a primipara. At least, I have never seen it otherwise. The perineum, or its anterior edge, the fourchette, or, in other words, the posterior margin of the vulvar orifice, frequently escapes laceration, as the sequel will show.