of all the possible danger of such a change, and the opposition that is always aroused by any great reform. The influence of women upon women has been of noticeable benefit.

President: I note one interesting circumstance mentioned by Dr. Weintraub, namely, the delay in punishing pregnant women. This is a practice many centuries old. In England no pregnant woman was allowed to be hanged until she had been delivered. To decide whether she was pregnant or not, a jury of matrons was appointed to examine her. Is a rebate of penalties always allowed?

Dr. S. L. Weintraub: In old offenders it is not.

President: Dr. F. E. White, Dr. L. Welsh and Dr. A. H. Goodwin are to be the committee from the Association, to act with the Students' Association, in relation to the care of sick students.

President: There is now another matter that has come up, and it is so appropriate to Dr. Fullerton's paper that I will ask the secretary to read this report from India, that you may decide whether you can send any expression of sympathy and interest to our sister physicians in India in regard to their effort.

The Petition of Fifty-five Women Physicians, Missionaries and Otherwise, to the Indian Government on the Subject of Child-Marriages.

Mrs. Dr. Mansell, M. A., M.D., of Lucknow, has forwarded the following memorial to the Government of India, signed by herself and fifty-four other lady physicians practicing in India:

To His Excellency, the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

May it please Your Excellency.

The undersigned ladies, practicing medicine in India, respectfully crave Your Excellency's attention to the following facts and considerations:
1. Your Excellency is aware that the present state of the Indian law permits marriages to be consummated not only before the wife is physically qualified for the duties of matrimony, but before she is able to perform the duties of the conjugal relation, thus giving rise to numerous and great evils.

2. This marriage practice has become the cause of gross immoralities and cruelties, which, owing to existing legislation, come practically under the protection of the law. In some cases the law has permitted homicide, and protected men who, under other circumstances, would have been criminally punished.

3. The institution of child-marriage rests upon public sentiment, vitiated by degenerate religious customs and misinterpretation of religious books. There are thousands among the better educated classes who would rejoice if Government would take the initiative, and make such a law as your memorialists plead for, and in the end would be grateful for their deliverance from the galling yoke that has bound them to poverty, superstition and the slavery of custom for centuries.

4. The present system of child-marriage, in addition to the physical and moral effects which the Indian Government have deplored, produces sterility, and, consequently, becomes an excuse for the introduction of other child-wives into the family, thus becoming a justification for polygamy.

5. This system panders to sensuality, lowers the standard of health and morals, degrades the race, and tends to perpetuate itself and all its attendant evils to future generations.

6. The lamentable case of the child-wife, Phulmani Dassi, of Calcutta, which has excited the sympathy and the righteous indignation of the Indian public, is only one of thousands of cases that are continually happening, the final results being quite as horrible, but sometimes less immediate. The following instances have come under the notice of one or other of Your Excellency's petitioners:


   B., aged 10. Unable to stand, bleeding profusely, flesh much lacerated.

   C., aged 9. So completely ravished as to be almost beyond surgical repair. Her husband had two other living wives and spoke very fine English.
D., aged 10. A very small child and entirely undeveloped physically. This child was bleeding to death from the rectum. Her husband was a man of about 40 years of age, weighing not less than eleven stone. He had accomplished his desire in an unnatural way.

E., aged about 9. Lower limbs completely paralyzed.

F., aged about 12. Laceration of the perineum extending through the sphincter ani.

G., aged about 10. Very weak from loss of blood. Stated that great violence had been done her in an unnatural way.

H., aged about 12. Pregnant. Delivered by craniotomy with great difficulty, on account of the immature state of the pelvis and maternal passage.

I., aged about 7. Living with husband. Died in great agony after three days.

K., aged about 10. Condition most pitiable. After one day in hospital was demanded by her husband—for his “lawful” use, he said.

L., aged 11. From great violence done her person, will be a cripple for life. No use of her lower extremities.

M., aged about 10. Crawled to hospital on her hands and knees. Has never been able to stand erect since her marriage.

N., aged 9. Dislocation of pubic arch, and unable to stand or to put one foot before the other.

In view of the above facts, the undersigned—lady-doctors and medical practitioners—appeal to Your Excellency’s compassion to enact or introduce a measure by which the consummation of marriage will not be permitted before the wife has attained the full age of fourteen (14) years.

The undersigned venture to trust that the terrible urgency of the matter will be accepted as an excuse for this interruption of Your Excellency’s time and attention.

Signed by fifty-five lady-physicians.

President: I think this child marriage is a very terrible thing. This protest is one of the very first results of Lady Dufferin’s attempt to bring women physicians into India. I will call upon Mrs. Karmarkar to speak, as she cannot but know much more than we do on the subject.
Mrs. Karmarkar: The cases of outrage cited in the paper are entirely exceptional. They correspond to what would be criminal cases in this country. However, undoubtedly many exist which are not brought before the public. When a man brings home a childwife he habitually gives her to his mother to be guarded until puberty. There is no very great chance for outrages in most of the households in India.

Do you think child marriage an evil?

Mrs. Karmarkar: Certainly it is an evil at best, for the child is still very young, 12 or 13 years old at puberty, when she is sent to her husband.

Dr. E. C. Jones: Is there any punishment for such cases as are quoted in the report?

Mrs. Karmarkar: There is a chance if the man is brought up in court. Many people in India now are trying to raise the age of marriage.

President: We have something of the sort at our own doors. The so-called "Age of consent" in Delaware is seven years.

Dr. F. E. White: The "Age of consent" in New York was ten years, only last year it was raised to thirteen.

President: The question is whether we will make a motion of sympathy with this effort, by transmitting resolutions to Mrs. Mansell or our colleagues in India.

Dr. F. E. White: I move that a committee of one be appointed to draw up the resolutions and send them, and I would like to name Dr. Fullerton.

President: As it is to be a representative matter, I think more should be on that committee. The Hospital, College and Association should be represented. The Dean for the College and Dr. White for the Association.
Dr. M. E. Allen: I think the President should be the person to represent the Association.

Dr. F. E. White: Then I add Dr. Marshall and Dr. Jacobi.

Motion seconded and carried.

Dr. Marie B. Werner not being present, her paper was read by title.

A Retrospect of the Treatment of Pelvic Inflammations.

BY MARIE B. WERNER, M.D., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

The last ten years have produced such a complete change in the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of pelvic inflammation, that it will perhaps be of some value to pause and cull from our store-house of knowledge such points as are now of use only as historical landmarks; and contrast them with those gained later by the progressive strides made in abdominal surgery, thereby enabling us to study more definitely the pathological conditions.

This has in a great measure diminished the vast ground upon which faith had reigned, and cries earnestly and loudly for thorough use of common sense in its widest conception.

In my student days we were taught to recognize pelvic cellulitis, parametritis, perimetritis, metritis, endometritis, etc.; each had a distinguishing characteristic, which, I feel certain, was more often taken on faith than otherwise. I refer particularly to the three terms: parametritis, perimetritis and pelvic cellulitis. Thanks to the abdominal surgeon, these terms are now obsolete and mean nothing to the progressive gynecologist.

Abdominal surgery has taught us to appreciate the gravity of inflamed and diseased appendages and their dangers to the patient. In carefully studying this condition we at once recognize the pictures of cellulitis and parametritis which our former text books have so graphically presented to us.

Even at this late date we find some of our prominent writers loth to give up the myth of pelvic cellulitis. The vague dividing line