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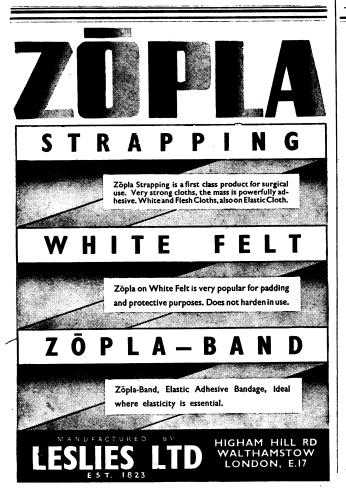
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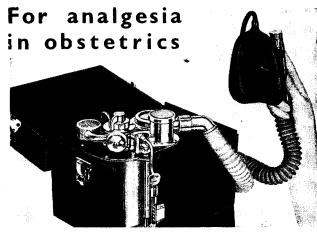
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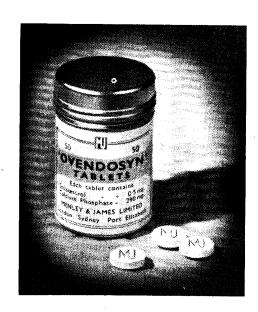
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THE USE OF VAGINAL TAMPONS FOR THE ABSORPTION OF MENSTRUAL DISCHARGES

An important clinical study

Abstracted from Volume 46, No. 2, pages 259-265, August 1943 edition of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

In 1933, a type of vaginal tampon for the absorption of the menstrual discharges was patented by E. C. Haas of Denver, Colorado, and became very popular around 1936. In 1938 and 1939 a certain amount of medical literature in favour or against the use of menstrual tampons was published in this country and abroad. However, there was no accurate information available of studies carried on over any considerable period of time indicating whether the use of self tamponage for the absorption of menstrual discharge was harmful or not.

To contribute accurate information over an extended period of time . . . 110 young, active women between the ages of 19 and 40 years volunteered for a protracted study from October, 1939 to January, 1942. 14 were married and 96 were single. Special care was taken to record any pelvic pathology present at the time of the initial examination and to observe closely any change which occurred in this pathology during the period of observation. Throughout the study careful notation was made of any pathologic change which occurred.

At the conclusion of the period of study, i.e. twenty-four months after the first examination was made, 50 of the 110 subjects (or 45.5 per cent.) showed no change in pelvic findings. In the 60 subjects in whom some changes were observed, the greatest change was in those of the 51 subjects in whom cervical erosion had been present at the initial examination. Fourteen had no cervical erosion and 17 showed less erosion at the end of the period of study. The cervical erosion was unchanged in the other 20 subjects. There was no increase in severity of the erosion in any case nor did any cervical erosion develop in a subject who had not had the lesion at her initial examination.

There was no evidence of any irritation of the cervix or vagina by the tampon.

No subjects acquired Trichomonas or Monilia albicans infections during the period of study. There was no evidence of any other pelvic infection during this period.

There was no evidence that the use of the tampon caused obstruction to the menstrual flow.

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