

Gross, of Philadelphia, some years ago preparing a very able paper along the same lines. He did not live to read his paper at the American Medical Association. This was done for him. This paper was placed on record as an able warning. The one before us from Dr. Sinclair should be filed for constant reference.

He deals with the injuries, old and new, arising from obstetric practice. He handles the old authors in such a manner as to abstract from them a fund of information and valuable deductions. He shows that in the practice of the older obstetricians the occurrence of fistulæ might occasionally happen, but much less frequently than is generally thought. Under the present practice of anæsthesia and forceps, lacerations, bruising and injuries of a serious nature are far too frequent. He refers to the fatal mistake of a blind trust in some chemical solution as an antiseptic. It is too common a belief that with the copious use of some antiseptic any sort of manipulation may be carried on with either the fingers or the forceps.

A strong and widespread professional opinion must be formed upon this question. It must be taught as a cardinal rule of practice that the too ready a resort to anæsthetics, flushing out the vaginal canal, and then the application of the forceps in the early hours of labor is, in the opinion of the author of the paper, not good practice, and in this statement most will agree with him.

One thing is certain, the practice of obstetrics, as above indicated, has produced an immense number of cases for the gynæcologist to repair. The *Medical Review* agrees with Dr. Sinclair, that better practice in obstetrics would avoid a good deal of our modern gynæcology.

---

## The Progress of Pathology.

---

MR. W. WATSON CHEYNE, of King's College, London, took the above subject for his text at the meeting of the British Medical Association in Montreal. He stated that twenty-five years ago bacteriology was non-existent. When he became house-surgeon to Lister in 1876, objections of all sorts were urged against the theory on which this great investigator built his researches. Some denied the existence of bacteria, others maintained the theory of spontaneous generation. Some again held that organisms are always present in the healthy body, and others that these took no part in the production of disease.

It was boldly stated by the surgeons of that day that success of the antiseptic principles in no way depended upon the exclusion of micro-organisms. Great difficulties lay in the way of proving the correctness