

tardy or imperfect, the forceps was indicated, and was a conservative agent both for mother and child. Too often the forceps was used as a lever or tongs, and not for traction alone. In the ordinary forceps certain forces which acted through the fetal body were lost. If there was malformation of the maternal pelvis, this loss of force was exaggerated. The aim should be to imitate nature and use traction in the axis of the pelvis. When this principle was carried out there was no danger of rupturing the perinæum, as might be supposed, for the traction rods worked nearly in a parallel with the blades of the instrument. The traction forceps might be used for either high or low operations. For the former it was far superior to the ordinary instrument, especially if the pelvis was deformed or the head had the occipito-posterior position. The speaker now used the traction forceps for all cases in which instrumental (*i. e.*, forceps) delivery was indicated. The force was applied at the centre of the fenestræ, and here there was the greatest mechanical advantage."—*New York Medical Journal*.

DEATH FROM TIGHT LACING.—Happily the practice of tight-lacing, though still a fruitful source of illness, does not now occupy a foremost place among the recognized causes of death. The fact that it does not occasionally stand in this position, however, should be noted by those foolish persons whose false taste and vanity have made them the suffering devotees of a custom so injurious. It should be remembered also that, whatever may be said of the more evident effects, the indirect consequences of thus tightly girding the body cannot be exactly estimated. They cannot but be hurtful. The veriest novice in anatomy understands how by this process almost every important organ is subjected to cramping pressure, its functions interfered with, and its relations to other structures so altered as to render it, even if it were itself competent, a positive source of danger to them. Chief among the disorders thus induced are those which concern the circulation, and it is to the labouring incapacity of a heart thus imprisoned and impeded both as regards the outflow and return of blood that we must attri-

bute such disastrous consequences as occurred a few days ago in a Berlin theatre. One of the actresses, who had taken part in an evening performance, and then seemed to be perfectly well, was found next morning dead in bed. Subsequent examination of the body showed that death was due to syncope, and this was attributed to tight-lacing, which the deceased had practised to an extreme degree. As regards the persons immediately affected, the warning conveyed by this incident is obvious.—*Lancet*.

LEPROSY IN CENTRAL AFRICA.—In one of Mr. Stanley's letters he incidentally refers to a case of mutilating disease having a strong resemblance to leprosy. This was found at a point in his last journey where no white man or Arab had visited before him, so far as he could learn. The diseased person, an aged female, was alone at the time, apparently an outcast and subjected to a quarantine such as might be formed by all the rest of her tribe running away from her. Linguistic difficulties prevented Stanley from getting a satisfactory history of the case, so that the verification of his diagnosis of leprosy must be left to some future explorer of the African Lakes country. The explorations of Captain Lovett Cameron about Lake Tanganyika, nearly due south from the point visited by Stanley, as referred to above, brought out the fact that a leprous tribe was believed to exist on the shores of that lake. It is the belief of the natives that the disease may be contracted by drinking the water of the locality where the afflicted tribe abide. The other natives shun that tribe and will not intermarry with its members; the lepers themselves are forbidden to depart from their district. They are chiefly located upon a high rocky island in the north-westerly part of the lake. Captain Cameron did not himself see these people, but he was informed that the disease produced mutilations of the extremities, the greater number of its subjects having lost a part of a hand or foot, while nearly all had been deprived of the sight of one or both eyes, and it was quite a rarity, he was told, to meet with a person not suffering from blindness in some degree.—*New York Medical Journal*.