

patient placed in the hands of these *useful* and *harmless* women.

The first case was one where a so-called midwife was in attendance for about 18 hours, when some kind friend happened to drop in, and saw that the woman's strength was failing, and insisted upon a medical practitioner being called in. He found a face presentation, with prolapse of the funis, the woman very much exhausted. He sent for a second accoucheur, and perforation was necessary, but too late, the woman died from septicæmia. The second was a case where one of these women was in attendance for over 20 hours; a doctor was at last sent for, and found a shoulder presentation. He tried to turn, but could not; called in a second, and evisceration had to be resorted to; there was rupture of the uterus, and the woman died. The third was a case of hydrocephalus; a woman had been in attendance for two days and nights; perforation of the head of the child saved the woman's life. I don't mean to say that any or all of these cases might not have terminated as they did, if a regular accoucheur had been present from the first, but I do say that in all human probability the lives of these two women would have been saved, because in the first case, so soon as the practitioner saw that the patient was becoming exhausted, he would have delivered; and in the second, if the doctor had been in attendance sooner, turning would have been practicable and rupture prevented.

If this is the line of conduct marked out by the present Council, the sooner we make a change, the better for the public and the profession. I have here given the views of the London Association, and I am sure that all other like bodies will endorse it.

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### Selected Articles.

#### THE TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER IN THE PHILADELPHIA HOSPITALS.

The remedies which have been found at the University Hospital to exert the most powerful influence upon the follicular intestinal catarrh, always present in this disease, are first and foremost the nitrate of silver, and next the subnitrate of bismuth and carbolic acid. There would seem to be abun-

dant evidence that nitrate of silver reduces the size of the enlarged follicles, relieves the inflammatory engorgement, and allays the hyperæsthesia of the nerves. It has also been settled by numerous experiments that the nitrate of silver is the most easily administered of the three astringents above mentioned, and the best tolerated by the system. If there is any putrid element in the disease, carbolic acid is employed instead of the nitrate of silver. The nitrate of silver is administered in doses of one-fourth of a grain four times a day. This treatment is persevered in until the ulcers have entirely healed.

If the discharge from the bowels is composed of small, semi-solid stools, it is, with propriety, disregarded; but if the stools are watery and large, opium is administered in pill-form, combined with the nitrate of silver. From one-quarter to one grain of the powdered opium is given three times a day. If there is constipation instead of diarrhoea, belladonna is given conjointly with the nitrate of silver.

Great care is had with regard to the diet when the catarrhal inflammation of the intestines is present. The food employed is, of course, as digestible as possible. Milk has been found to be the best diet in this disease. If the curd appears in the stools, the milk is diluted with water, or lime-water. Of this mixture of milk and lime-water three ounces are given every two hours, or a little over two pints in the course of twenty-four hours. When the bowels are torpid, beef or mutton broth is given alternately with the milk.

The beef-tea employed is prepared after the following recipe; Take a quantity of tender meat, and, after cutting off the fat, chop it up fine, put it in a bowl, pour a pint of water over it, and let it stand over night. The water should be kept just on a simmer—the temperature never being allowed to go above 140°, otherwise all the albumen is coagulated, and so either left on the sieve in straining, or introduced into the stomach in the form of curds. After this simmering solution has been allowed to stand over night, pour it into the pinkin, and heat it again gently with enough salt to give it flavor, and, if necessary, add a drop or two of muriatic acid. Then pour it out over a hair-sieve into a jar. The resulting solution will be found to contain all the nutriment possible, and to be the most valuable kind of stimulant and laxative.

When the fever is high, the patient is given all the food he can take. Care is had, however, that, in allowing food, the already inflamed intestinal tract is not further irritated.

The poison in the blood is controlled by means of quinia, and nitro-muriatic or salicylic acid. As a general thing, salicylic acid is only employed where there is some putrid discharge joined with high fever. Quinia is considered (1) to neutralize