

AXIOMS FOR LEARNING AND PERFECTING EVERYDAY OBSTETRICAL OPERATIONS.*

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The first prerequisite for any surgical measure is "to know," which means to "have the principles in one's head."

The difficulty of memorizing increases with the quantity of material to be digested and also with the degree of its impracticable presentation. To obviate both drawbacks it is necessary to separate the principal points from less relevant additions and to present the result simply and clearly.

As a starting point for memorizing (reproduction) are used main, leading conceptions we have acquired (produced). These will cause to appear in our consciousness all the secondary points necessary to complete the total picture in its logical development, and to group the same intelligently around the fundamental conception until the complete desired mental picture materializes. Rules built up on an organic foundation will always be better impressed upon the mind than doctrines offered to the memory without inherent cohesion. A memorizing mechanism thus prepared will act more reliably in proportion to the degree of adaptation it possesses to the sphere of interest of the individual. For this reason conceptions emanating from the realm of natural history are especially useful in memorizing obstetrical operations.

The first rule is: to assist the natural organism, when deficient, in order to effect a happy result of the parturient process.

The association of the customary manipulations with the natural laws of mechanism of the three factors in the case: operator, mother and child, guarantees by the interaction of the mechanism of these three organisms, each of which represents a machine of the most variegating ability, the best possible solution of the most complex situations.

The mechanical acts of the operator are important in so far as he has to adapt himself to the locality of the operation.

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