

it seems to be, in many cases, a mark of good sense and heroism to infringe. Heroism, indeed! but at what a risk!

The calls of nature press—discomfort from the foul linen and bedclothes induce a desire for comfortable appliances—ignorance of the condition of the system, a desire to be considered more *smart* than her friends, or various reasons, prompt the patient to a change of position. She may not suffer, for, by good fortune, her temperament may be one that is not easily affected by the circumstances of her position, and she may escape. But no one can predict this immunity, and wise precaution is not less needful, on account of the exceptions which may occur. No fixed time can be determined, after which the danger of this complication is passed, for this reason—that it is impossible to exactly measure the effect of the hæmorrhage, in any given case, without subjecting the patient to the test—the very thing of all others to be avoided.

The recumbent position, therefore, should be insisted on for such a length of time as will enable the system to recover from the shock of hæmorrhage, resulting from the labour; until we are satisfied by the concomitant symptoms, that no danger will result from assuming any desired position. And in this connection, it may be well to consider whether a longer oversight, than is generally given to patients in childbed, is not called for by the exigencies of the situation. There may be no need of active medication, but the continued visits of the medical attendant will at least impress on the mind of the patient a necessity for greater caution, than if she was left to her own guidance, and that of the nurse—oftentimes the source of much mischief, by routine habits, and ignorant wrongheaded notions of treatment.

From the connection in which the article noticed comes to us, as one of the printed transactions of a Society numbering among its members some of the most eminent obstetricians of the British empire, and from the nature of Prof. Simpson's answer to Dr. Mackinder's inquiry, it is fair to infer, that but little is there known, definitely concerning it, and that the author of the paper is not alone in his want of information regarding its history and cause. It is upon this very point that Prof. Meigs's work will be found to answer every need. The practitioner will there find the whole subject amply and clearly set forth, and with a degree of detail that leaves little to be desired. It is with both pride and pleasure that we point to him as an American authority, and have at this length endeavoured to bring the subject before the profession more prominently than it has been heretofore, with the belief, that under Providence, it needs only an appreciative knowledge of the cause of this fatal result, so much to be dreaded, to avoid its occurrence.—*Boston Medical Journal August 9th, 1860.*

MATERIA MEDICA.

TO PREPARE PILULÆ HYDRARGYRI.

It is usually prepared by drug millers and chemical manufacturers, by triturating together, in appropriate mechanical contrivances, mercury, conserve of roses, liquorice root in powder, and some rather moist viscid material as powdered althea root, in such proportion, that three parts by weight of the mass shall contain one of mercury, thoroughly divided and partly oxidized.

"To my friend and former pupil, Thomas Weaver, the reader is indebted for the suggestion of the following good extemporaneous process for the preparation of this heretofore troublesome mass. It is adapted equally to producing a soft or a pulverulent article, and is so rapid and easy, as to supersede the necessity for the use of machinery for small quantities. Its importance, as a practical improvement, will be appreciated by those, who have attempted to prepare blue mass with the pestle and mortar by the offi-