

premature labor or the begetting of weak and sickly offspring whose insufficient hold on life renders post-natal existence impossible, or so handicaps the new-born with constitutional defects that it is unable successfully to struggle against external conditions and therefore perishes from the first extra strain imposed by sickness or disease.

In order that both mother and child may receive that attention which is their due, every gravid woman should be under the care and direction of a competent physician during the whole nine months of pregnancy. She should be told what to eat and wear, how to rest and exercise, and what attention should be given to bodily functions and cleanliness, in order that her own well-being may be maintained and the health of her future offspring established. Every physician is aware that, while most of the disturbances of pregnancy are but temporary and insignificant, depending either on reflex action or the pressure of the enlarging womb upon surrounding organs and parts, the entire relief of which may be impossible as long as the cause remains, yet that there are other symptoms of most serious import which arise insidiously,—the threatening evils of which may be anticipated and forestalled.

The importance of examining every woman during the later months of pregnancy cannot be exaggerated. A knowledge of the pelvic contents, the presence or absence of adventitious growths, and the approximate size of the bony canal, forewarns the physician as to possible difficulties, or the impossibility of labor, and, by a careful study of each case, enables him to determine the necessity for intervention either before or at the time of delivery. Pelvimetry is easily and quickly accomplished, and while it may furnish only relative information regarding the size of the pelvic canal, it serves to make the knowledge of the case more certain, and in that way fulfils its purpose.

In a recent case where there were no symptoms, examination revealed the presence of a dermoid cyst firmly adherent and so blocking the pelvic brim as to render engagement of the child's head impossible. The woman was quickly and successfully delivered by Cæsarean section, and the tumor removed, with happy outcome to both mother and child.

"Foreknowledge absolute," as Milton calls it, places the physician at once at an advantage with himself, the patient and the possibilities to come.

On the other hand, the practitioner will do well to remember