

the fundus, between the membranes and the uterine wall, or the injection of sterilized glycerine into the uterus. The action of glycerine is by no means certain, its use is not without serious danger by its toxic action on the blood, and when we add to this the further dangers of sepsis and air embolus, it cannot be said to appeal to us as an ideal method of inducing labor.

The introduction of a bougie to the fundus uteri, between the membranes and the uterine wall, is a mode of procedure which may be regarded as the one almost universally employed at the present time. In common with all the other methods mentioned above, the objection obtains to this also that it is very unreliable in its action, both in regard to its effectiveness and in the time required. Nor is its introduction free from accidents.

Contrast with these uncertain and unreliable methods one which is not only positive in its action, but also certain in regard to time, and comparatively free from danger to both mother and child, and *miqreov* ; and by no means an unimportant consideration, a purely *elective* operation.

The operation consists of two steps, the preparatory and the operative. The former is begun by rendering the patient's vagina thoroughly clean and aseptic by the use, first, of soap and brush, and then by thorough scrubbing and douching with some antiseptic solution. The cervix is then caught and drawn down by means of bullet-forceps, and sterilized gauze is thoroughly packed into the canal, projecting through the internal os ; this done, the bullet-forceps is removed and the packing is continued in the vagina, until that is completely and well tamponed. The patient is then allowed to rest from six to twelve hours, depending upon her condition and the necessity for

interference. In some cases this tamponade is sufficient in itself to bring on labor ; in the majority, however, it does not, but softens the os and renders it easily dilatable. We then proceed to the second step of the operation, which we do also without preliminary use of the tampon in those cases in which the os will admit one or two fingers, or in which labor has already commenced and the indication points toward rapid emptying of the uterus, as an eclampsia or placenta prævia. This second step is performed as follows : After the patient has been placed on the table and thoroughly anesthetized by chloroform, the gauze tampon is removed from the vagina and cervix, and the patient once more rendered thoroughly aseptic ; the operator's whole hand is then introduced into the vagina, facilitated by the use of creolin or soap dissolved in ether, and according to the amount of dilatation present, one or two fingers are passed slowly into the cervix up to the metacarpophalangeal joints when they are fully flexed and very gradually withdrawn ; three or four fingers are successively used in this way, and the whole hand is then introduced, the thumb on withdrawal being flexed inside the other fingers ; after this the hand is again passed in, but on withdrawing it the thumb lies on the other fingers—in other words a full fist is made, and on repeating this a few times the os will be found to be dilated sufficiently for the passage of any ordinary head. The force used must be firm, yet gentle pressure, the object being to overcome the spasm of the cervix by fatiguing the muscle. The child is then extracted either by means of forceps or by version, and the uterus washed out with the antiseptic solution, and, if so desired, tamponed with sterilized gauze. After-treatment as usual. The results in thirty-one cases have been uniformly good.

ENURESIS NOCTURNA.—Dr. F. Clark, of Boston, Mass., writing, says : "I have used Sanmetto with good results in bladder, kidney and urinary troubles. I had a man come to me from Philadelphia, Penn., who had been troubled from an infant up to the age of twenty-four years with nocturnal incontinence of urine—wetting the bed

almost every night. I used three bottles of Sanmetto on him, and found it made a thorough cure. He can go to bed at eight o'clock in the evening and sleep until eight the next morning without urinating. I recommend, with all honesty, to the suffering and to the profession the great cure, Sanmetto."