

the bowel, as well as having a star-shaped laceration of the cervix and bands of scar tissue running across the vagina in every direction, stated that she had the first pain of her first confinement at eleven p.m., while spending the evening at her father's house, which necessitated her going home. She walked thither a distance of half a mile and as she and her husband had to pass the door of the physician who was to attend her, the unlucky idea occurred to them to stop at the doctor's and let him know that labour had begun. Instead of telling them to go home and go to bed, and that he would call around in the morning, he unfortunately got up and dressed and arrived at her house before twelve. By midnight he had put her to bed, examined her and decided to apply the forceps forthwith. During the next four hours, she said, he applied the forceps thirty times, although, as he did not use any anesthetics, she was unconscious most of the time from fainting, but her husband told her that several times the doctor fell on his back on the floor owing to the instrument slipping off the child's head. At last at four o'clock in the morning he told the husband that he could do no more as he was exhausted, and that he had better get another doctor. Dr. Gaherty, who sent the patient to me afterwards, then took charge of the case and found her in a very dangerous condition. By eight o'clock he had revived her enough to give her an anesthetic and terminate the delivery with instruments. This, of course, was an extreme case, but there were many other women who stated that the instrument was applied in two or three hours after the first pain. The majority had been attended by a physician whose fee was cut down so low that it was impossible for him to devote the necessary time to the case and yet make an honourable living.

I am almost ashamed to mention such a thing in a paper on the abuse of the forceps, but it must be truthful in order to be of any use, and so I must say that there are many women and still more children lying dead and buried to-day who would have been alive and well if the physician had demanded and been paid a sufficient sum to remunerate him for the time which should have been spent in