

off, and contains the bodies lying on tables, the feet turned to the public, the head raised by a block, so as to bring the face fully into view. The bodies are fully dressed, and in the same condition as when found, so that they may easily be recognized, if any one who had known them in life should, by chance, pass in front of the window. In this event, all he has to do is to make a statement to the clerk, who is always to be found in an adjoining room.

The temperature of the inner room is constantly maintained from 2° above to 2° below 0°C . At this temperature bodies cannot be kept longer than eight or ten days. At the end of this time it becomes necessary either to transport the bodies to the compartments, or to bury them.

The method employed for obtaining a low temperature in this room is the following:—In the upper part of the room, near the ceiling, is a double-inclined plane, consisting of metallic plates, superimposed in the manner of a tiled roof. The ridge of this extends across the whole breadth of the room. The pipes containing the chloride of calcium solution, open at this point, and distribute the cooling liquid in two large sheets, thus bringing a large surface into contact with the circulating air. At the bottom of each incline, the fluid is collected into a trough, whence it is emptied into a frost-covered pipe, which brings it back to the machine room.

The maintenance of the low temperature is very expensive, on account of the great size of the room. The first contractor received 20,000 francs per annum. The expense has since been reduced one-half, by substituting compressed air for steam as the motive power.

As we have already seen, the lowering of the temperature is due to the dissolving of the anhydrous chloride of calcium, which, in passing from the solid to the liquid state, produces a degree of cold sufficiently intense to freeze mercury (40°C). Pumps are used to propel this solution through the pipes which we have seen in the interior of the compartments of the preserving room, and over the double-inclined plane in the exposing room. The air brought into contact with this intense cold is soon reduced to the same temperature.

There is a good amphitheatre where autop-

sies are performed. On one side there is a small laboratory, where only elementary researches are carried on, and where specimens, which it is necessary to submit to more minute examination, are collected in special jars. Still further, and near the entrance, is a comfortable room, in which the physicians of the establishment can assemble.

G. A. F.

NATURE, THE BEST ACCOUCHEUR.

By J. H. GARDINER, M.D.

I am a general practitioner of eleven years standing; and for at least eight years of that time, I have attended from ten to twenty cases of confinement monthly, with the following results: I have had six deaths during the puerperal period; two from embolism, two from puerperal inflammation, one from typhoid fever, and one from shock caused by a large loss of blood at time of birth, and a sudden chilling from open window on a frosty night in October, two days after premature birth of twins. Six of my patients have suffered from pelvic cellulitis; at least four of these belonging to families with a tubercular diathesis. Four or five others have recovered slowly from causes unknown. All others have been well enough to be up and around by the ninth or tenth day. I have seen one case of puerperal convulsions in a very mild form, and in two or three cases I have had a post-partum hemorrhage.

I always wash my hands with soap and water on entering the lying-in room, and if I have been attending any suspicious surgical or medical case, use carbolic acid in the water. I use either sweet oil or lard, or whatever other substance I can get in the house where I am attending, for lubricating purposes, both for hands and instruments. I am careful to see that all clots and portions of the placenta are removed, and that the patient is free from all bloody or wet clothes, and also that the bed is clean and dry, before I leave the house. I know of one case in which the cervix uteri was ruptured, but the patient refused to have it operated on, and she has since borne children, but never complained of any inconvenience from the tear. I have once stitched a ruptured perinæum; in all other cases nature has performed the cure to the