

Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest.

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FORCIBLE DILATATION OF THE CER-VIX UTERI.

Many are the minor surgical operations produced by modern gynæcology. Not the least important among them is that which is known as "forcible dilatation of the cervix." We have always looked upon it as one of the most barbarous procedures known to surgery, and were much pleased to notice in the November number of *Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal* some remarks on the subject by Dr. Joseph Price, of Philadelphia.

Dr. Price read a paper befere the Philadelphia County Medical Society on the subject of "Certain Causes of Major Pelvic Troubles Traceable to Minor Gynæcology," in which he made comments on Emmet's cervical operation, forcible dilatation, inconsiderate use of the uterine sound, and intra-uterine applications. He admits that a certain measure of success may follow a forcible dilatation of the cervix in some cases of dysmenorrhœa due to stenosis of the cervical canal, but he considers that the procedure involves very great dangers. He says: "Rapid dilatation of the cervix is a distinct traumatism, and along with it run all the dangers incident to septic absorption that attend any other violent procedure, and where traumatism, incident to natural causes, is confessed to be the cause of so much subsequent mischief, it ought not to be expected that operative injury can be harmless. This conclusion, reached inferentially, has been abundantly confirmed on the operating table by much of my later pelvic work. In a number of cases with a history of preceding dilatation, the afteroperation has exhibited an inflammatory condition of affairs as complicated as any other in my experience. Some of the dilatations were done with pre-existing disease, which was made worse by this interference, whilst others were done simply to relieve the dysmenorrhœa, and resulted in the establishment of a complicated surgical disease in which operation was necessary purely to save life. All in all, I believe that, judged simply by its remote effects, the operation of rapid dilatation is a dangerous one, and results oftener in subsequent harm than in lasting good."

The dangers connected with the operation are thus described by Dr. Price in a very concise and rather graphic manner. The words of warning from such a prodigious worker, such a careful worker, and so brilliant a gynæcologist, are worthy of careful consideration ; and we feel that we are justified in giving them considerable prominence, together with our hearty endorsation

APOLLINARIS WATER.

Apollinaris water is a pure mineral water, its chief virtue consisting in the fact that it contains a very large proportion of carbonic acid gas. The spring from which it is obtained is situated on the bank of the river Ahr, near the village of Nuanahr, in Germany. It was discovered accidentally in the year 1851, from the fact that vines would not flourish on a particular spot because carbonic acid gas issued from the ground. On the advice of Professor Bischop, of Rome, who was consulted, a well was sunk, and at a depth of forty feet a spring was reached, which rose to the surface with tremendous force. " The volume of carbonic acid gas expelled with the water is so great that it is dangerous to approach the spring on a windless day. In 1873 an English company purchased the property, and have since that time distributed this celebrated water to all parts of the world. A correspondent of The London Times gives some interesting statistics which show that the supply is abundant, and the methods of bottling and distributing are complete. Last year about sixteen millions of bottles were exported. About seven hundred tons of straw, for packing, and fifty-seven tons of corks were used in the same year. They fill the bottles at the rate of ninety thousand a day, and four hundred and fifty persons are engaged in the works. Careful tests show that the pre-