

from the arm. During the first week the fate of the bit seemed uncertain, but by the seventh day it was clearly living, and more vascular-looking than before, and it thenceforward continued to spread rapidly. When we saw the man again, on October 18, the ulcer had completely healed, but the transplanted skin was readily discernible as a slightly-elevated island of natural-looking integument in the midst of a surface of glazed cicatricial tissue."

Midwifery.

BLOODLETTING IN OBSTETRIC PRACTICE.

BY FORDICE BARKER, M. D.

Recently, while attending a patient in confinement, he found indications for venesection; and, not having a lancet at hand, stepped into the nearest instrument-maker's to procure one. There was not a lancet to be found in the shop! The attendant apologized, said they had little call for that article, but they had some making, which would be ready in a few days. This was an amusing index of the change which had come over the practise of the profession in the last twenty or thirty years. Doubtless, our predecessors bled more times in a week than we in a year. In all his obstetrical practice, in consultation, for the last fifteen years, he could not recall a single instance where bloodletting had been even alluded to, except in a few cases of puerperal convulsions.

He had made a careful examination of the standard authorities in midwifery of thirty years ago, a long list of whom he cited. By one or all of them bloodletting was recommended for the following, among other conditions, in gestation, parturition, and the puerperal state:

In gestation; for uterine irritation, uterine plethora, erratic pains, cramps of the lower extremities, spasmodic cough, palpitation, pruritus, solitude, anxiety, drowsiness, anasarca, to prevent abortion, and to promote expulsion where abortion is inevitable. One woman was reported as having been bled eighty-six times in one pregnancy, and another eighty seven times!

In parturition: for false pains, where the patient is plethoric; for irregular uterine contractions with pains feeble: for extreme rigidity of the os, or of the perinæum; to prevent inflammation; to prevent, and to cure, convulsions.

In the puerperal state phlebotomy constituted the most essential part of the treatment for the arrest and cure of all the post-partum inflammations, metritis, peritonitis, etc.; and by many it was recommended in Plegmasia dolens.