

As to the use of antiseptics, like any other therapeutic agent, they should of course only be used when required, but then in such a manner as to thoroughly cleanse and disinfect the parts requiring it. But where the patient is kept clean, and at rest, on a clean bed, with fresh air and frequent change of napkins, they will not often be required.

Yours respectfully,

R. WHITEMAN.

Shakespeare, Oct. 14, '85.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—I send you the following unusual case for insertion in the LANCET :

M. L. aged 82 years, had for several years been troubled with pain and distress on making water. One day he noticed a hair protruding from the penis about an inch. He pulled at it and withdrew it about 4 inches, when there appeared to be something preventing its coming, and on pulling harder, it caused pain in the region of the left kidney, as if something were tearing the flesh, so he called his wife, an old lady aged 76 years (now) and she assisted him. After about twenty minutes, they succeeded in removing it without breaking. It was 24 inches long, of a dark brown color, with a bulb at the end like a hair from the head. He says he felt greatly relieved afterwards from the peculiar feelings he used to labor under. The hair was shown me, and I have the utmost confidence in the correctness of the statement, which was corroborated by the old lady, who assisted in its removal, as well as by the son and others of the family. A similar case (or cases) may have been met by others, but I have never read of a recorded one.

Yours very sincerely,

R. W. CLARK.

Hastings, Oct. 16, '85.

P. S.—The above case is not more singular than, —a potato bug which, a son of mine, met with in an egg, last summer, after it was cooked for breakfast.

THE USE OF THE FORCEPS.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—There was an article in your last January number by Dr. Sweringer, of Ind., advising practitioners always to "carry their forceps with them to every labor case." I cannot agree with the Doctor in this, for the proportion of cases really

requiring instrumental aid are so few, that to carry them always entails a deal of unnecessary trouble. I would except a case a long distance off. The forceps are very often used unnecessarily. In a practice of fifty-five years I have not used them a dozen times, and in that length of time, I have had but two fatal cases, and those from puerperal fever and peritonitis.

The forceps are sometimes used to save time, sometimes to gain a little notoriety, sometimes for the double fee, and sometimes from ignorance. I remember a case that occurred a few years since, where the doctor in charge, had been two nights and off and on for two days in attendance on the woman. He said that he had a very troublesome case, and was going to use instruments that night (the third night) but asked me to visit with him before so doing. I went, and found the woman was not in labor at all, and had not been—simply false labor pains, which a full dose of laudanum checked, I told him she would not be confined for a week at the least. Ten days afterwards she was delivered of a fine child without the forceps. Therefore, looking at it from my point of view, I say that carrying them all the time to every case is unnecessary; for if not too far off you have always time to send for them, except in a case of convulsions, which are rare. Dr. Thatcher, Professor of Midwifery, in Edinburgh, laid it down as a rule, "to allow seventeen hours for a natural labor, before having recourse to instruments, except in cases of deformity.

I remain, etc.,

R. W. CLARK,

Hastings, Ont., Sept. 8th, 1885.

Reports of Societies.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, MONTREAL.

The annual meeting was held on the 9th ult., Dr. Roddick in the chair.

Dr. Trenholme exhibited three pathological specimens. The first was a parovarian cyst, removed from a patient from Shawville, Que., 42 years of age, 9 years married, and no children. Patient was of spare habit, nervous, and had suffered for 16 years. Her trouble began in the bladder, as she supposed, accompanied by pains in the back, inability to sit,