

DOUBLE ENTENTE.

"I can't conceive," she archly cried,
 "Wherein you men can longer pride
 Yourselves from female rivals free,
 For surely we have grown to be
 Your peers in ev'ry human stride.
 It is a truth that none dare hide ;
 Yet why you men will not agree
 To recognize the new decree
 I can't conceive.

"Now, *entre nous*, won't you confide,
 And tell me true, all jokes aside,
 What difference the world can see
 Between your manly self and me?"

"To tell you truly," he replied,
 "I can't conceive."

—Anon. (*Medical Age*).

COMMENDABLE TESTIMONY IN A MALPRACTICE TRIAL.—The *Winere klinische Rundschau* for August 16 summarizes an account of a malpractice case from a journal that it calls "N. Fr. Pr.," which may or may not mean *Neue freie Presse*. It appears that the physician against whom the action was brought had been called to attend a woman in childbirth, and had undertaken some operation which he considered necessary, but had found himself obliged to leave it unfinished and send the patient into a hospital. There an operation was performed, and the woman died on the following day. At the post-mortem examination a laceration of the internal organs was found, also a foul canal, and it was concluded that the injuries had been inflicted with the forceps. In the complaint the physician was charged with having displayed lack of skill in the operation. Two expressions of opinion, says the account, were of noteworthy weight in the case. On the strength of Professor von Hofmann's necropsy, the judge held it to have been shown that the woman's injuries must have been inflicted before she entered the hospital, and that the physician's operative procedure was not in accordance with the rules of the obstetric art. Professor Schauta gave expert testimony as follows: "The first question is that of whether the operation was indicated, and to that I must answer yes. In this case I should have done the same thing myself; it accords perfectly with the rules of obstetrics. This I must maintain here in direct opposition to Professor von Hofmann's opinion. The woman's physician, to be sure, inflicted the injury with his instrument. But now comes the question, Is that pardonable or not? As to that, I must say that apparently the instrument deviated from its position in consequence of some slight movement on the part of the patient. The circumstances of private practice in such a case are peculiarly embarrassing. In hospital practice we anæsthetize the patient, and she lies perfectly still. In this instance, however, there was no assistance, but that of the midwife. I may remark that all of us, from the first to the least, are often so situated as to have to say with regard to mishaps: Something has happened that might have been avoided. There are disastrous occurrences that are due to the extraordinary difficulties of obstetrics. The present case was one of misadventure, and surely it is not to be attributed to the physician's negligence or ignorance." The *Rundschau* commends Professor Schauta's testimony from every point of view, and so do we.—*Editorial in New York Medical Journal.*