

Editorials.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS.

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists was held at the Hotel Havlin, Cincinnati, September 20, 21 and 22, 1906.

There are certain incidents in connection with the organization and subsequent history of this admirable association which are sufficiently interesting to be worthy of regard at the present time. In the year 1886 it was decided to form a Congress of representative physicians and surgeons of the United States. Preliminary invitations were sent to the various special societies asking for co-operation. The American Gynaecological Society was the only one which refused to co-operate. In the official report of the Society for 1887 we find the following words: "The proposition to become part of the American Congress of Physicians and Surgeons was not adopted." The promoters of the proposed confederation were naturally disappointed because they desired a representation of the important subjects of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. As a consequence of this disappointment there was a conference of some friends of the Congress. As the result of such conference the American Association of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists was organized, not in opposition to any other society, but rather in the interest of the new Congress. After the organization was fairly completed a formal application for admission was sent to the Congress. In the meantime, however, a change had come over the society which had formerly opposed the proposed Congress. We were not told whether this marvellous change was brought about in consequence of the organization of the new society; but it was certainly a singular coincidence that the applications from the old Gynaecological Society and the new association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for admission to the Congress were practically made at the same time. After some deliberation by the executive authorities of the Congress it was decided that the society which had shown pronounced hostility to the Congress up to the time of its sudden conversion should be received, and that the