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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

### SOME REMARKS ON FORCEPS DELIVERY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO OCCIPITO-POSTERIOR CASES.

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While examining the recent instruments for obstetric purposes a short time since, a suggestion came to my mind that some of the inventors of these instruments should also invent a convenient engine of two or three horse power to use them; for they seemed to me most formidable, and capable of exerting a force far beyond the muscular strength of an ordinary man. When I commenced obstetric work, I provided myself with a "Robertson" long forceps, and have found this quite sufficient for any delivery I have ever met and now think that they are quite powerful enough to deliver any fœtus that should be delivered with forceps. As for the "axis-traction" forceps, one would think that a short experience with forceps would be all that is necessary to instruct one of the correct axis in which to make traction, and also of the slightest tendency of an inclination of the fetal head to rotate, which could then be slightly favored with the ordinary forceps, which would be inconvenient with the axis forceps.

In the application of forceps we are told to apply them in this way and that, different authorities having different methods; but to my mind they are mostly theoretical, and some are not at all times practical. In my experience the result has been satisfactory when the forceps were applied in any manner so long as they passed over the head easily and locked easily.

One author advises that we be sure the membranes have retracted or there will be danger of separating the placenta. In such a case the instrument will not go over the head properly. I once had an experience with such a case. After trying for an hour or more, in a fruitless attempt to apply the forceps, I made a careful examination and detected a small tuft of hair which had passed through a small opening in the membranes, which were tightly stretched over the head, the liquor amnii having escaped. I immediately tore open the membrane and had no further difficulty in applying the forceps. Again, we are so often told of the