

soon delivered. The child was fortunately dead ; it had spina bifida, club feet and a monstrous head. Four hours of pain and mental anguish might have been spared the woman and I and the attendants relieved from anxiety—all the result of not having with me an instrument that would not cost over \$2. This was my first experience with the hook, although in practice nearly fifteen years. For nearly ten years I carried with me the instrument; but never having a case in which to use it, it was placed aside and lost, and of late years I never thought of its necessity. I had seen its use and was delighted with it, and within two hours after my arrival home I had one made by a blacksmith in the village. I mention this fact to show the high opinion I had formed of the utility of the instrument and to state that any intelligent blacksmith can make one. Do not be startled at my revelations when I tell you that, two days afterwards, I received a telegram from a person living sixteen miles north of this place, but did not go until messengers came for me. It was also a shoulder presentation. The attending physician was exhausted with his task and the woman could not have survived long. The doctor's message was, "For God's sake, come." I went cheerfully, thank heaven,—although I have, so to speak, been spat in the face for many years through man's ingratitude. I am "always ready" to assist a woman in her misery ; however poor she is, the greater claim has she on my services. I did not regret my going ; the trembling grasp of the attendant's hand repaid me at my approach to the miserable cabin. Before I had warmed myself, I handed the doctor the hook, and luckily for the woman, she was delivered in a few minutes afterwards. In this case, as in the former, the perineum was lacerated to the sphincter ani, and was attended to at once. In the former, the accident was not noticed at the time.

Considering the number of years I have been in practice and having a first-class midwifery business, wherein I have often flattered myself at my success, I must confess that my eyes were opened to the necessity of being—to use the language of my text—semper paratus, when two such cases had broken so suddenly on me. Now for my third case, which I attended a few days after the last mentioned. It is useless to enter into the ordinary particulars ; suffice it to say, that I found the short forceps impossible to adjust, and as a result—luckily for the

sufferer—had to send only two miles for the long ones ; and for the third time, consecutively, another lacerated perineum. The question arises, on whom, when, and where, is the next stitching to be done ? I hope, quoth the raven, *nevermore !*

I am now thoroughly equipped with a fine set of obstetrical instruments, purchased from a Toronto firm, Stevens & Son, and in addition I carry a syringe, lancet, chloroform, ergot, liq. ferri perchlor., the alum egg, etc., in this obstetrical bag, so that they may not be used in other cases than those for which they are intended and save trouble in collecting them together when hurried. To make a resumé of my observations, I will divide them under the following headings :—

1st. Do not trust your abilities without the aid of every medicine, appliance and instrument, when called to a case of labor.

2nd. When thus equipped, your anxiety is relieved to a great extent, and your reputation not liable to be endangered.

3rd. Of still greater consideration, is the timely alleviation of the sufferings of one who has placed the most trying agony of her life in your hands. To you, alone, her every thought is directed ; so, be ever prepared for an emergency.

This article was written, not because of any cacoethes scribendi the writer has, but for the good of the fraternity at large ; for it cannot be denied that, among the 1700 doctors of medicine in Ontario, there are many who might profit by the above experience. "It is human to err," is admitted, but to knowingly walk in the ditch the second time is inexcusable ; so this article is intended to thwart the first unlucky step you may make.

SYNTAX.

Jan. 11th, 1883.

NASO ORAL RESPIRATORS.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—I notice in your last issue of the LANCET the communication of Mr. J. L. Mills, of Brantford, in defence of the high price of the above little instrument. He says I probably forget that he has to pay 25% upon goods of this description coming from Great Britain. I do not forget this fact, but remember in connection with it, that we have other articles from the same place, far more difficult to