

VIBURNUM PRUNIFOLIUM IN THREATENED ABORTION.—Dr. D. A. Richardson, in an article in the *Med. Reg.*, speaks highly of the success attending the administration of viburnum prunifolium in threatened abortion. He gives a case in which, with well-marked uterine contractions, the os was beginning to dilate. He says: I then gave the following:

R.—Chloral hydrate, gr. x.
 Fld. ext. viburnum, gtt. x.
 Water to, 3 j.

Take every half-hour till easy, and continue at intervals of four hours after cessation of pains.

I left the patient quiet after two doses, and on my return next day gave the following:

R.—Ammon. bromid., 3 ss.
 Ext. viburni prun., f 3 vj.
 Aquæ ad., 3 iv.—M.

Sig. 3 j. t. i. d.

This was continued for a week. In May, about four weeks from the first visit, I was called again, and found the same conditions prevailing, with the most severe pains I have ever seen in a case which escaped abortion. I gave the chloral and black-haw as before, and repeated the prescription for ammon. brom. and black-haw, ordering its continuance twice daily until the patient was delivered.

She was delivered at full term, without forceps, of a healthy female child, weighing eight pounds, which is still living and in good health. In Nov. 1887, being again in her seventh month, she began complaining of bearing-down pains, and I gave her the prescription for ammon. brom. and viburnum, with the effect of quieting them entirely; and on Jan. 10, 1888, she was delivered of a male child, eight and one-half pounds in weight. I have used the same mixture in several cases where bearing-down pains are experienced, either during the period of gestation, or at the menstrual period, and know of no better remedy in either condition.

HOT WATER IN SURGERY.—The use of hot water in surgery is said by many surgeons to be based upon a few principles that make it necessary for the water to be real hot. The following suggestions cover the ground:

After the larger vessels have been tied in an operation wound, there occurs an outward flow from the divided arterioles, venules, and lymph-spaces of a sero-sanguineous fluid, highly albuminous in its character, in varying quantity, and continuing for a longer or shorter period. As long as this outward flow continues there is per-

fect immunity from infection by atmospheric germs. The application of hot water checks this outward flow, coagulates the albuminous elements in the fluid, and forms an impenetrable shield over the surface of the wound. Hot water applied to the abraded surface acts as a powerful cardiac stimulant and controls shock.

THE PHYSICIAN'S FEE.—The *Medical Record* gives the following excellent rules for guidance in the collection of fees:

Always make a charge for each service; this gives it a business value in the eyes of the patient. The charge should always be just and reasonable; then no deduction is necessary. Insist always on full payment, based, if necessary, upon itemized accounts. When the patient asks for a reduction of his bill, recall the sacrifice of sleep, of meals, and of comfort in rendering him prompt service. Think of your preferences then and of his now. Never allow sentiment to interfere with business; the "thank you" is best emphasized by the silvery accent of clinking coin. The loss of money by sickness only affects one side in every other business; why should it be different when the doctor is to be paid? Always charge a fixed fee, and never trust to your patient's generosity or embarrass him by guessing an amount that would be satisfactory to you; it is very much like firing with a kicking gun at a black cat in the dark. Render bills at short intervals, and be in earnest when you commence to collect them.

DIABETES MELLITUS AND ITS TREATMENT.—In an article in the *Br. Med. Jour.*, Dr. Hofmeister, of Carlsbad, says of this disease:—"In conclusion, I venture to lay down the following propositions, as summing up the results of my studies and observations:

"1. We are still in total ignorance as to the etiology of diabetes mellitus.

"2. The quantity of sugar found in the urine is of no significance at all in judging of the severity and danger of any particular case of diabetes.

"3. The smallest traces of sugar, found only by most careful chemical examination of the urine, are of considerable importance in a great many cases, so that they cannot be left out of account in trying to arrive at a correct diagnosis and prognosis.

"4. The dietetic treatment must be adapted to