

once or twice a day. The evening is a good time to give an emetic. The chest being relieved, a good night is secured.—*London Hospital Gazette, July 31, 1877.*

WHY SHOULD WE SUPPORT THE PERINEUM DURING LABOUR AT ALL, AND PARTICULARLY IN PRIMIPARÆ?

THE above is the title of a paper by Dr. E. B. Turnipseed, in the *Richmond and Louisville Journal*. Dr. Turnipseed states as his conviction, *very nearly all the resistance to the exit of the head of a child is from the transversi perinei and constrictor vaginae muscles*. The head forced down, forms a *cul-de-sac* in their neighborhood. He thus describes his method of aiding delivery:—

“I avoid tedious labour, and its frequently terrible results, simply by passing two or more fingers of the right hand into the anus, applying them firmly against the superior wall of the rectum, and pressing with great force perpendicularly upward, and if the head has already formed the *cul-de-sac*, diagonally backward and upward. Should these efforts not move the head of the child, I place two or more fingers of the left hand within the vulva, at the fourchette, pressing them between the head of the child, and the above cited parts, and using a lever force by forcing the head downward in the direction of the raphi of the perineum, and I have more than once heard the popping noise produced by the sudden movement of the head from the *cul-de-sac*, and it was at once delivered. If the head of the child should prove too large to pass, without injuring the soft parts, after fully testing the mode recommended by me, I do not hesitate to use the forceps, compressing and lifting the head perpendicularly, until the vulva is passed, thus going through the same mechanism as heretofore stated, when using the hands alone. During a practice of some twenty years, I have only one case to report of laceration.”

THE TREATMENT OF SMALL-POX BY SALICYLIC ACID.

MR. ENGLÉDUE PRIDEAUX, late Resident Medical Officer, Derby Small-pox Hospital, writes favourably of this drug in the *Med. Examiner*. He thinks it fulfils all the required indications, as it is a powerful antiseptic, and is very fatal to all the lowest forms of life; it passes into the blood materially unchanged, probably in the form of the neutral salts of soda and potash, and appears in the urine in the form of salicylic acid, and may be detected by the addition of a few drops of tinct. and ferri perchloridi, which produces a characteristic violet colour. When pure it may be given in large doses, as much as half an ounce in twenty-four hours; when given in these large doses it is apt to produce a marked depression, but this he finds is obviated by giving small doses of carbonate of ammonia. He gives it in solution with carbonate of ammonia and bicarbonate of soda in the proportion of five grains of each of these to twenty grains of the

acid. This mixture is most pleasant to the taste and perfectly unirritating to the intestinal canal, and in some sixty or seventy cases he has never known it to produce sickness. This is in reality giving salicylate of soda and ammonia no salicylic acid.

At the Small-pox Hospital, Derby, he reports having treated twenty-nine cases of small-pox with salicylic acid, or rather with the salicylates, all of which recovered, and all with the most marked results, both as to the progress of the disease and the subsequent pitting.—*The Doctor, London, July, 1877.*

AN ERROR IN THE PHARMACOPŒIA.

We believe the last issue of *The British Pharmacopœia* has been as carefully edited, and that it is as free of errors as a book can well be. A rather important mistake, however, occurs at page 180, and as it embraces the difference between ounces and drachms, we draw attention to it in order that our readers may alter it in their own copies of the work. Liquor arsenicalis is printed thus:—“Take of Arsenious acid, in powder } of each 80 grains. Carbonate of potash..... } Compound tincture of lavender.... 5 fluid drachms. Distilled water..... ..... a sufficiency.”

The 5 fluid drachms of comp. tinc. lav. should read 5 fluid ounces.—*Dublin Medical Press.*

DR. GRIFFITH recommends the following application to the ulcerations in the severe and very painful sore-throat of scarlatina: chloral, five grains; glycerine, twenty-five grains. After this has been applied with a brush the pain is much diminished, and the patient can swallow medicine or food without the severe pain which the action caused before.—*New York Med. Jour.*

CONSOLATION FROM STATISTICS.

“And it is really true that I shall recover?” asked a patient of his doctor. “Infallibly,” answered the man of medicine, taking from his pocket a paper full of figures. “Here, look at the statistics of your case; you will find that one per cent. of those attacked with your malady are cured.” “Well?” said the sick man, in a dissatisfied manner. “Well, you are the hundredth person with this disease that I have had under my care, and the first ninety-nine are all dead.”

PRESERVATION OF A FAVORITE MINISTER.

A minister was called to see a man who was very ill. After finishing his visit, as he was leaving the house, he said to the man's wife, “My good woman, do you not go to any church at all?” “Oh yes, sir, we go to the Barony Kirk.” “Then why in the world did you send for me? Why didn't you send for Dr. Macleod?” “Na, na, sir, deed no; we wadna risk him. Do ye no ken it's a dangerous case o' typhus?”