

## OBSTETRICAL DONT'S.

1. Don't begin the administration of an anæsthetic early in labor; it predisposes to post-partum hæmorrhage.

2. Don't use an anæsthetic against the will of the patient or friends.

3. Don't object to the moderate use of an anæsthetic during the latter stage of labor, as it is almost wholly without danger.

4. Don't put the woman entirely under the influence of the anæsthetic, unless you intend some operation.

5. Don't immediately cut and tie the umbilical cord; the child may lose a good deal of blood by so doing.

6. Don't make a strenuous effort to take the placenta away at once, not until the uterus has begun to contract.

7. Don't make forcible traction of the umbilical cord.

8. Don't permit the placenta to remain more than an hour.

9. Don't withdraw the hand from the uterus in taking away the placenta until the walls have begun to contract.

10. Don't forget to examine the perineum after labor.

11. Don't neglect to keep the hand on the fundus uteri for several minutes after delivery, and press down.

12. Don't permit the woman to be left alone for the first hour at least. Danger of post-partum hæmorrhage.

13. Don't leave without giving instructions to apply the child to the breast an hour or two after labor.

14. Don't refuse to place a binder upon a woman; a bandage when properly applied is a benefit.

15. Don't let the nurse tend to the child until the mother has been cared for.

16. Don't permit the nurse to wash the baby until it has been smeared with oil of some kind.

17. Don't put undue pressure on the child's head to mould it into symmetrical shape, when it has been flattened somewhat from the labor, as it will return generally to nearly its natural shape.

18. Don't allow the nurse to press out the secretion of the breasts for a new-born infant.  
—*Med. Advance.*

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF CHLOROFORM BY GAS-LIGHT.

As is well known, it has been the practice to avoid the use of ether for anæsthetic work if artificial light is needed, whenever there is fear lest the ether vapor mixed with air be heated sufficiently to explode. The heavier vapor of chloroform, in addition to not being liable to form an explosive mixture with common air, is far less inflammable, and so has been hitherto regarded as a safe anæsthetic in such cases, at least as far as fires are concerned. Recent researches undertaken by Dr. Iterson, however, seem to show that chloroform vapor, when allowed to mix with the products of combustion of ordinary coal gas, undergoes decomposition and liberates gases of a most irritating nature. Dr. Iterson believes death has been brought about in one case at least by inhaling these noxious vapors, and recounts other instances in which alarming symptoms have supervened. One patient, although apparently but little affected while inhaling the chloroform, became painfully dyspnoic afterwards, gasping and evincing the usual symptoms of asphyxia due to irritant vapors. These alarming effects passed off when the windows were thrown open and the fumes of coal-gas combustion and chloroform were permitted to escape. It is well known that samples of chloroform which have been kept exposed to diffused light will after a while become contaminated with substances which possess most irritating properties; but until Dr. Iterson's warning arrived, we were not aware that chloroform vapor would, when diffused in the air of a room or operating theatre, be decomposed in passing over a jet of ignited coal-gas. We know that, heated to redness, chloroform splits up into hydro-chloric acid, chlorine and other products, including the trichloride of carbon; and both Soubeiran and Liebig have pointed out that, although chloroform vapor cannot be ignited in the air, it will, if passed over a spirit lamp flame, burn, and liberate irritating vapors. The question as to the gases most probably formed, if the coal-gas is capable of uniting with the products of chloroform decomposition, is too wide a one for us to enter upon; nor do we think we need go further than to say that, if Dr. Iterson's facts are to be taken without reservation, the irritant bodies which exercised so deleterious an influence were, in all likelihood, the products of the ordinary decomposition of chloroform—namely, free chlorine, hydrochloric acid, and possibly other chlorides and ammoniacal compounds.—*Lancet.*

In a case of inflammation of the patellar bursa, with accumulation of fluid, Prof. Gross tapped the sac by a trocar, removed the fluid and injected twenty drops of pure carbolic acid.

The following is Buckley's anti-pruritic ointment: Gum camphor, chloral hydratis, of each one drachm. Mix and rub together until a liquid results, then add one ounce of ointment of rose water.