

his good fortune to his generally leaving the placenta until it was forced out by uterine contraction, or could be squeezed out with the hand on the fundus by Credé's method. But this latter must be done with gentleness, as cases of death, supposed to be due to septic metritis, had occurred in which the real trouble had been found to be general peritonitis, due to the rupture of a pus-tube or ovarian abscess, owing to violent squeezing of the uterus and appendages. He thought that leaving the placenta for a few hours was utterly devoid of danger, although it would be considered rank heresy to say so. Winkel in his book says distinctly that this is frequently done at the Munich Maternity without any bad effect, the placenta being almost always expelled by the unaided efforts of the uterus. He had frequently waited two or three hours, at the end of which time it was nearly always found lying in the vagina, and could be easily removed. He deprecated pulling hard upon the cord, as this led to irregular contractions of the uterus. Another reason why he had never had a case of *post partum* hemorrhage was because he always took care to have an ounce of the very best extract of ergot at every case. Whenever he used chloroform he was in the habit of giving one dram of ergot to counteract its relaxing effects. And in any case he generally gave a dram as soon as he was sure that there was no obstacle to the birth of the child, either at the cervix, or in the pelvis, or at the perineum. He employed douches of plain hot water for the first three or four days in every case, simply for cleaning purposes, because the patients told him that this afforded them so much comfort. He never used bichloride now, because he had seen several cases of severe poisoning from its use. As regards clots, he had always found that they would come away by allowing the woman to sit up on a chamber to pass water and motions, instead of keeping her on her back. The hand should not be introduced into the uterus unless both it and the vagina were first rendered perfectly aseptic. In closing the discussion, Dr. Wright differed from Dr. Smith as to leaving the placenta for so long as two or three hours. He was in favor of a pad and binder, as it afforded great comfort to the patient, and perhaps guarded against hemorrhage. He never used ergot until the placenta had been delivered, because he had found it in one case cause the uterus to grasp the child so firmly that delivery was retarded, and he was obliged to use the forceps.

The report of the committee on Necrology was then read, after which the session adjourned.

By the invitation of the Hospital Trust, the members of the Association were cordially invited to inspect the Victoria Hospital for sick children, of which many availed themselves at one o'clock.

At two o'clock the president, Dr. Richard A. Reeves, delivered his annual address, which was an interesting résumé of the year's progress, most of the points of which have already appeared in the RECORD.

The discussion on Medicine "Diphtheria" was opened with a paper by Dr. A. S. Fraser, of Sarnia, followed by Dr. W. Britton of Toronto, and Dr. T. S. Harrison of Selkirk, who proved an excellent speaker, giving the history of the pathology of the disease up to the present day. He showed that the disease was distinctly local, not going beyond the mucous membrane, and that the constitutional symptoms were due rather to the poisonous excreta of the bacilli being absorbed by the lymphatics. This poison was evidently a powerful depressant of the nervous system. The disease must be attacked locally and as early as possible. There were many different varieties of diphtheria bacillus, some causing mild attacks and others very severe attacks.

Dr. J. A. Williams, of Ingersoll, president of Ontario Medical Council, then delivered a splendid speech on "Recent Medical Legislation and its effects," in which he showed all the advantages which the medical profession in Ontario attained through the Medical Council. Among them were the following: 1st. The standard of the profession was being constantly raised, so that medical men were taking a higher and higher position in the estimation of the public.

2nd. The members entering the profession were at the same time restricted, so that the competition was much less than it would otherwise be. 3rd. Inspectors and detectives were employed to hunt down quacks and charlatans who would otherwise flourish in great numbers, to the great injury of the regular profession. 4th. An accurate register of all the practitioners in the province was kept with their addresses. Eventually, 5th, a building had been erected at a cost of seventy thousand dollars, which was now worth one hundred and twenty thousand, and which, while furnishing a habitation to the Council for holding examinations and keeping appliances for the same, was no expense to the members, the rent from a portion of it being sufficient to defray the interest on the whole building.

The receipts from this source would be sufficient to defray all the expenses, and then the profession would be relieved of even the trifling charge of two dollars a year. In the meantime, all must pay these two dollars who wished to practice, and all alike derived the benefits which the Medical Council afforded the profession of Ontario.

Anyone failing to pay before the first of January would have his name removed from the register, and would become an illegal practitioner, although he could at any time have it replaced simply by sending his arrears to the