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THE OBSTETRICAL FORCEPS.

BY A. LAPHORN SMITH, B.A., M.D., M.R.C.S. ENG.

Professor of Clinical Gynecology in Bishop's University, Montreal; Professor of Surgical Diseases of Women in the University of Vermont, Burlington.

When first requested by the editor to contribute an article on the obstetrical forceps, the writer was about to reply that he was not a teacher of obstetrics and that he had only used the forceps about two hundred times, including consultation cases, and, consequently, that there were many others who were much more able to write on this subject than he; but on thinking over his own experience, especially as a gynecologist who has taken the histories of a great many women who have been injured by the forceps and who has repaired these injuries, he came to the conclusion that he might do some good by giving his experience of the abuse of the forceps as well as by expressing his views as to when and how they should be used. No attempt, therefore, will be made to write a classical or library article, and no books will be referred to or quoted; the opinions he will express are based on about twelve hundred and fifty obstetrical and seven thousand gynecological cases, which, of course, is a very small number when compared with the vast aggregate of cases which might be drawn upon for information. And yet the careful consideration of even these few cases may be of value to the younger and less experienced of our readers to whom it is especially addressed, while the older ones may take some interest in approving or condemning it in the light of their much greater knowledge of the subject.