

male practice, it would "supersede the necessity for male practitioners except in a very few instances where the disproportion of parts is very great or the presentation such that delivery cannot be effected without turning; in such cases the medical man will be still called in, but these will not occur in more than 1 out of 200." Had these vaccinations been fulfilled, the sole duty of the "man midwife" would have been taken up in operative interference with the course of nature during parturition and his presence in the lying-in room would only have been demanded when trials of manual dexterity or of instrumental strength were unavoidably necessary. His studies would have been curtailed down to the acquisition of the rules of force and of extraction; while he might justifiably have remained ignorant of every particular connected with the history of natural labor. But no such exemption of occupation or abbreviation of attainment has yet been observed. For as to be expected views so singular as those of this expectant writer were properly estimated to be the fanciful perceptions of a visionary, and probably never enlisted in their cause a single supporter. Conventional usage still requires that the man practising midwifery shall be a thorough master of its entire science and practice, and be as competent to aid the uterine efforts when matters are in the right train of accomplishment, as well as when any occurrence is unusual or perilous. How far custom is right in insisting upon these requirements is a question wearing a quite entirely different aspect, to the one concerning the real necessity for their possessions under present circumstances. It is, however, one which has not been reserved for the profession. The public have set themselves up as judges and decided it in accordance with their feelings and experience, women feel themselves safer under the care of a Doctor, and they have repeatedly found that in the event of danger supervening he is at hand and prepared to avert its threatenings. The considerations which their delicacy might naturally inspire against his assistance find no place in the selection, as they are outweighed by the paramount advantages which are known to follow from his superior knowledge and greater nerve. There, assuredly, are no circumstances that can arise which in comparison require so correct an acquaintance with the anatomical condition, both normal and pathological and of a more important organ than those under which the gravid uterus may be placed in the hour of sorrow. Nor can we imagine any cases which more require the exercise of skillful judgment, promptness of action, self-possession, firmness of purpose, and strength of execution as those that may be presented during the period of parturition. The proper management of hazardous cases calling out qualities like these have by unanimous consent been allotted to the medical man and as it is impossible to predicate when the peril may