

know, to a large extent, their origin and results, but it is in the application of this knowledge that failure is conspicuously evident, and, neglecting the cause, too great trust is placed in ability to overcome results.

"If woman," writes Higginson, "really exists but as a child-bearing animal, let us say so frankly," and, he might have added, treat her with commensurate consideration. Certainly no breeder of fine stock would submit his animals to the same lack of care and attention as is ordinarily accorded to the pregnant woman.

Ignorance of physiologic and morbid processes being untenable as excuse for this neglect, we must seek elsewhere for an elucidating reason. And this, I believe, will be discovered in an incident which recently came under observation.

A patient, pregnant about the fifth month, was brought to one of our hospitals in a moribund condition. She was young and vigorous and, save some slight bladder irritation, had been well up to the morning of the day when convulsions set in. Dilatation of the os had begun, and at the hospital evacuation of the uterus was readily accomplished. The patient did not, however, regain consciousness, and died a few hours later in spite of the most energetic efforts to save her life. The urine of the patient had not been examined prior to her entrance at the hospital, and in conversation with her physician the remark was made that it still appeared necessary for the general practitioner to learn that the urine should be tested from the beginning of pregnancy, to which he replied, "Doctor, it does not pay."

The case is a pathetic illustration of the present status of obstetric practice. Here was a young woman of the poorer class, in robust health, whose life was sacrificed on account of her inability to adequately remunerate the physician for the time and skill which he might expend in caring for and directing her during the trying period of gestation. Unfortunately the case is not exceptional, nor is the physician to be held wholly blameworthy for following a course which is almost universally practised among patients in all stations of life.

In these days of vigorous commercialism the physician is apt to forget that "the practice of medicine is an art, not a trade; a calling, not a business;" and that he has taken upon himself a vow to succor the sick and afflicted and to bestow the gifts of his knowledge freely and with open hand. It often happens that the practitioner is engaged for a confinement and, perhaps, does not see his patient again until the pains of labor have set