

First Examination—Pass—W. H. Batten, B. R. Burns, C. J. Devins, T. B. Feick, D. H. Fraser, xW. H. Gray (biology), C. E. Hill, H. O. Jones, Miss C. I. M. Kennedy, Miss F. M. Meader, P. D. McIntosh, J. H. Nesbitt, G. H. Ramsey, I. B. Roger, N. H. Russell, R. A. Seymour, M. Siegel, B. C. Sullivan, H. Sullivan, W. A. Thomson, F. N. Walker, A. T. Whealy. F. W. Leach passed in the subjects of chemistry and embryology.

ORCADIAN OBSTETRIC CUSTOMS.

In the January number of *Old Lore Miscellany of Orkney*, quoted in the issue of the *British Medical Journal* for May 9, 1914, is an article by Mr. John Firth on Orcadian obstetric customs, actually observed within the memory of persons still living.

“The chief care of an Orcadian mother and her attendants at such a time seems to have been to preserve the newborn baby from the unwelcome attentions of ‘peerie-folk’ or fairies, who were always on the lookout for a human child to kidnap or bewitch. To frighten them away, therefore, the mother kept beside her in the bed a Bible and a knife, the fairies of Orkney being apparently as much alarmed at the sight of these objects as the ‘Good People’ of the Border were said to be by the homely blue bonnet when it reposed on the bed of a lying-in woman. To ‘make assurance double sure,’ however, relays of neighbors were called in for several nights to rock the cradle and shield its occupant from the nocturnal attacks of its mischievous enemies. A careful father, moreover, would ensure his child’s future prosperity by arranging for its first drink to be taken off silver; and many were the expedients resorted to in poor homes, the most usual being to place a silver coin (frequently borrowed for the occasion) in the horn spoon, which served as the baby’s pap-boat. Orcadian children must have been a hardy race, for in those days the first nourishment administered to the newly-born infant was a teaspoonful of toddy, and not infrequently both mother and nurses were anything but sober at the time of his birth. The nursing, therefore, both of mother and child, must have been of the most primitive description, and ‘this combined with the fact that it was but seldom that a doctor or a trained accoucheuse was called, clearly shows that the successful result of such incompetent obstetrics may be perinently described as ‘the survival of the fittest.’ ”

SCULTETUS ON GUNSHOT WOUNDS.

At the present time the following translation of a passage from Scultetus’s *Armamentarium Chirurgici*, written in 1672, is of special