

the substances introduced have been saturated with astringent solutions, as they usually should be to render them doubly efficient. In early life, I found much trouble in this respect, as the alum or other astringent so corrugated the parts as to render their introduction difficult and painful. Now, by using a common *glass speculum* all trouble is at once removed. You can pack the vagina to its utmost capacity in a single minute, without any trouble or suffering to your patient. In cases of abortion, in two instances where a small portion of placenta remained beyond the reach of instruments, and where hemorrhage was long continued and alarming, I succeeded in saving the women by plugging the os uteri with a piece of sponge—an operation easily done through the speculum, but almost impossible without it. One of these ladies was, and now is living in your city, and was reduced to the lowest condition. This plan may have been pursued by others; but so far as my recollection serves me, I have not seen it mentioned."

MANAGEMENT OF PLACENTA PRÆVIA.

Dr. Charles Clay, of Manchester, proclaims, in the *Glasgow Med. Journal*, the most preferable method to be the simple detachment of the placenta from the os by the fore-finger, leaving the rest to nature. In an experience of forty years he never witnessed any bad consequences from this practice, and adds that there is infinitely less violence done, the danger much reduced, future difficulties are of less importance, and the results far more favorable. With version and immediate delivery, the fatality to the mothers has been one in three, and to the child one in two, while with simple detachment of the placenta it appears from the reports of Prof. Simpson, Dr. Radford and Dr. Clay, that only one mother died of forty-four, and one child in five cases.—*Am. Med. Times*.

PARTURITION WITHOUT PAIN.

The Lancet, May 24, contains a description of a new inhaler and anodyne mixture introduced by James Townley of Edinburgh. The inhaler is similar to one in common use, having in addition two tubes, an inch and a quarter long, and a quarter of an inch in diameter, running parallel to its floor, and placed above, and to the sides of the inspiring valve, so as to admit two small streams of fresh air, which to a great extent are inspired unmixed with the vapor of the anodyne. In place of the grating there is a curved prong for retaining the sponge under the right tube and opposite the hole in the right side connected with the cup which receives the mixture to be inhaled. The anodyne mixture is composed of alcohol, two ounces; aromatic tincture, one drachm; with sufficient chloroform added, short of the production of a turbid state of the fluid. The aromatic tincture makes it pleasanter to inhale, and also appears to prevent the sickness which would otherwise sometimes arise from long continued inhalation. The tincture is prepared with nutmegs, one drachm; cloves, two drachms; pterocarp chips, a drachm and a half; water, four ounces; alcohol, five ounces; mix. The object to be attained is to so far influence the nerves of sensation as to prevent pain, without producing unconsciousness. To effect this, the following directions are given: "The woman in the upright or recumbent position, as the case may be, holds the inhaler in her right hand. She is then directed to take a full inspiration, and to apply the inhaler to the mouth and nose. She is then to breathe rapidly for six, eight, or more inspirations (the inspirations and expirations being equal) only with the diaphragm and abdominal muscles, the chest being kept a fixture all the time. The inhaler should then be removed immediately, and one or two full, deep, quick chest inspirations taken. This will be found sufficient to relieve all pain, and there will be no loss of conscious-