

Dr. J. F. Goodchild, the nominee of the Board of Control, will give a good account of himself. He has had a good training for the work. He understands thoroughly the main questions now before the city council, such as the filtration plant, the installation of septic tanks, the management of infectious diseases. We are glad the council has made him the choice for this important position.

ROUTINE INDUCTION OF LABOUR AT TERM.

A. Magnus Tait, raises the question, *New England Medical Monthly*, Feb., 1910, as to whether the routine induction of labour at term is good obstetrics; or is justifiable; and whether it conserves the best interests of mother and child, is what the author discusses in this paper.

He defines full term and meaning that a period of 270 days from conception, or 280 days from the end of the last menstruation has elapsed from the time of conception to the date of birth of the child.

The means of foretelling the expected date of labour are uncertain, there being a number of methods at our disposal which will not permit an accurate forecast, but allow of some degree of certainty.

If the patient passes the expected time of labour her anxiety and nervousness increase. This latter point is dwelt upon at length by the author in his paper. Interfering with the husband's business plans is mentioned as a matter of serious consequence.

The prolongation of pregnancy means a larger child, a more tedious and difficult labour, greater danger of toxæmia and placental changes, all exposing the life of the mother and child to greater danger.

Records are given of several cases of what might be called "missed labour," all of them showing abnormal conditions of the placenta.

The author concludes from his observations that many lives of children and mothers could be saved by the judicious induction of labour at term. "Select, and study a case and use sound judgment, and by so doing many a puerperal period could be changed from the tedious, complicated to the normal."

Induction of labour may be performed by the introduction of the bougie into the uterus and gauze packing of the vagina.

(The subject of this paper is to be classed with the "removal" of cases suffering from inoperable cancer. There are some people in this world who suffer from marked impairment of judgment!)—*Reviewer*.