

educated body of physicians. He had seen how the popular fallacies and the numerous and disgusting nostrums were gradually but effectually gotten rid of in the great republics of Venice and Florence, and how the citizens of these republics had learned to discard the charlatan and respect the physician. Vicary actuated by the same love of nature that Linacre felt, on the same grounds sought and obtained the charter for the surgeons. The after history of medicine in England is a glorious testimony to the enlightened wisdom of Linacre and Vicary. Good results, epoch-making discoveries, soon followed on the careful observation of natural phenomena. The merest observation of natural phenomena. The merest observation of Willis, Harvey, Sydenham, Smellie, Denman, William Hunter, John Hunter, James Cheselden, O'Halloran, Chamberlain, Charles Bell, John Bell, Black, Priestly, Cavenish and Waller, and in more recent times may we not add Jacob, Graves, and Stokes? All these great lights of medicine obtained immortality by unremitting observation of nature. Sydenham spent years in the study of the diagnostic characteristics and normal course of the fevers; William Hunter spent years on the study of the womb; John Hunter's life was spent in study; Jacob's accurate and beautiful dissections of the eye tell to all succeeding students of his marvellous patience and perseverance; all who have read Stokes' books know of his extreme caution. From those who thus achieved greatness, we learn that the respect and admiration of posterity can neither be won nor retained except by an intelligent and continuous study of nature. As we read the lives of these great men we may notice their mental stability; they indeed "proved all things," and their lives present an example to those who, "unstable as water, shall not succeed." Indeed, latterly, we have changed all the old lines of conduct. To-day men rush forward proclaiming a panacea for all the ills of life and, in conformity with modern ideas, the only question is, "whence cometh this man?" If the answer is "from Germany," he at once acquires the confidence of the multitude, and to doubt of his accuracy or to hint the desirability of testing the power of his panacea, or the asking some information concerning its nature, incurs the risk of ostracism. Certain of our profession repudiate the teaching of our forefathers—discard caution, close their eyes and ears, and as unreasoning creatures follow a self-elected, leader whithersoever he may go.—*Med Press & Circular*.

ON HOT-WATER FLUSHING OF THE UTERUS DIRECTLY AFTER DELIVERY.—In every case of labor I now attend I make it a rule to wash out the uterus directly the placenta has been expelled, either by expression or by the natural efforts, with hot water. The advantages claimed are:—

(1) Stimulant to the patient; (2) produces contraction of uterus, removing shreds of membrane, clots, etc.; (3) the prevention of "after pains"; and last, but not least, setting the practitioner's mind at rest by ensuring a permanent contraction of the uterus and a clean and untainted cavity.

The facility with which the uterus can be washed out *directly after labor* is a strong argument in favor of the proceeding. An endeavor to do so forty-eight hours later will be found much more difficult and not nearly so effective.

In several cases which I had observed while assistant master to the Rotunda Hospital, the sudden rise in temperature (sometimes accompanied with rigors) was entirely due to a portion of membrane, or *débris* of some kind being retained *in utero*, discovered only when that organ had been flushed with hot water.

Nothing can be more mischievous than the plan I have seen adopted by many midwives, viz., that of "making a rope of the membranes." Though not condemned as yet by any of the text-books or manuals for midwives with which I am acquainted, the fact of rotating the placenta when extruded (or nearly so) brings on a uterine contraction, and the membranes which have not left the uterus are gripped by the os or cervix. The twisting is continued till the membranes break, leaving a considerable portion behind, setting up after-pains, which, if not sufficient to expel for good and all the offending portion, allow it to become a source of extreme danger to the patient by subsequent decomposition, as shown by the high temperature, rigors, etc.

I am now so convinced of the value of washing out the uterus with plain hot water (*previously brought to boiling point*), that I hope I shall be excused for saying, that, in my opinion, *such should be made a routine treatment in all cases of labor and miscarriage, whether in hospital or private practice*. The little additional trouble involved will amply repay the practitioner who adopts this treatment, by whom alone it should be done in all cases.—Alexander Duke, F. R. C. P. I., in *Hosp. Gaz.*

THE TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.—Professor Köbner, of Berlin, at the conclusion of a discussion on "The Treatment of Syphilis," gave the following *résumé* of his experience and opinions.

1. Regarding excision of the primary affection, in only a small minority of cases was he able to prevent further symptoms of syphilis by this means. As a method of operation he recommends excision combined with electro-cauterization. It is indicated as a prophylactic only at an early stage of the chancre, and in extensive breaking down of the induration, or, if the latter is obstinate to ordinary treatment, for the purpose of