

as his visits could not be pre-determined. The medical man is the only proper judge of the necessities of the patient, and I should think he could exercise his discretion accordingly and be entitled to his ordinary and customary fees for each visit. I have been taught that consultations were for the benefit of the patient, and consequently the patient should pay the consultant. I also thought that charges upon a physician's bill for "visits and medicines" were sufficiently specific, although the *quality* and *quantity* of the medicines be not designated.

Yours truly,

A PRACTITIONER.

P. E. Island, 27th Dec., 1883.

[An ordinary visit does not include any operative procedure except of the most trivial character. Some of our judges require medical men who supply their own medicine and thereby act as druggists, to detail every item in the bill; others do not. There is no schedule of fees for this Province, but in most of the city and district societies a regular tariff is established, and this is recognised in the courts. The usual charge for detention after the first hour, and in confinements after six hours, is from \$1 to \$4 per hour. Five dollars would be a reasonable charge for removing an adherent placenta. It is generally conceded that the attending physician is the best judge as to the number and frequency of his visits. Consultations are for the benefit of the patient, or to satisfy the whims of friends or relatives, and are always paid by the patient or his friends—never by the attending physician.]—ED. LANCET.

QUADRUPLETS.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—I send you a few notes of a somewhat rare case of midwifery, which recently occurred in this vicinity, thinking they might be of interest to your readers.

On Dec. 17th, 1883, I saw Mrs. H. Multipara, who on Dec. 12th was delivered of four (4) living male children, one of which only lived two (2) hours. She was attended by a midwife, and I was informed that the labor was short and easy. The presentations were all "breech", and each child had a distinct and separate placenta. There was no hæmorrhage, and convalescence has been nor-

mal, with the exception of a bad back-ache, relieved by a belladonna plaster. From the appearance of the children, as well as from the mother's calculation, I judged labor had taken place at about the middle of the (8th) eighth month of gestation. The boys were small, averaging perhaps 2½ lbs., but were perfectly formed, and performed all their functions in a normal manner. On Dec. 30th, I was called to see them, and found they had taken cold, and were suffering from what was apparently bronchitis, from which they all died in less than 48 hours.

Yours truly,

G. H. COBURN.

Fredericton, N.B., Jan. 11, '83.

Reports of Societies.

ST. JOHN, N.B., MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 3rd, 1883.

Dr Hetherington reported a case of poisoning by Barbados tar. The patient, a young man of 30 years, was troubled with hemorrhoids, and on the strength of a friend's advice he purchased 4 ozs. of Barbados tar, taking a tablespoonful as a first dose; in two hours he was in the most excruciating pain from the hypogastric region down through the bowels, and continued through the thighs and legs. He described the pains as "cutting cramps"; he also vomited considerably. I watched him a very few minutes and saw that he was rapidly growing worse. I gave him ½ grain of morphia hypodermically, and in a short time he was free from pain. The next day he felt very sore and weak, but made a rapid recovery.

Dr. T. Walker reported a case of extraordinary high temperature, nine days after parturition, treated with 5 gr. doses of quinine, every 3 hours, with very satisfactory results. Dr. Musgrove thought these were not cases of puerperal fever. Dr. J. Christie treated such cases with opiates.

Dr. Musgrove showed 4 ozs. of fluid taken from a knee joint with an aspirator, at two operations, with an interval of 13 days, after which it did not return, but resulted in recovery. He approved of early removal of fluid.

Dr. Coleman showed a patient, æt 21, from whose left eye he had extracted a cataract and enucleated the stump of the right. The right eye