

to deliver with forceps, should give a practically negligible fetal mortality, and a maternal mortality of 2 or 3 per cent. The performance of the operation after one tentative application of the instrument, provided this and all previous manipulations have been done with aseptic precautions, gives almost equally good results.

The conclusion is inevitable that in those cases where the disproportion is slight, the best results for mother and child will be obtained by allowing labor to continue until spontaneous delivery occurs, or until the head has entered the pelvic cavity, when forceps may safely be applied. Where the disproportion is greater Cesarean section, performed as early as possible, will give the best results. If spontaneous delivery does not occur, and the head does not enter the brim, one attempt at forceps delivery may be made, but extreme force must not be used. Failure of the head to come through should be followed by Cesarean section, pubiotomy or craniotomy, according to the circumstances of the case.

It ought to be recognized that those are formidable cases to deal with, and the best results can be obtained only if the patient is in a well-equipped hospital, where the practitioner's hand is not forced by the well meant, but unwise, demands of the patient's friends for him to intervene with the object of cutting short her suffering; where he can conduct every manipulation with the strictest asepsis, and where he has facilities for performing instantly any one of the major operations mentioned. Among major operations high forceps ought to be included. Obstetrics is a branch of surgery, and the same care and skill are demanded of the obstetrician as of the surgeon if the best results are to be obtained. If this were more fully recognized by the public and the profession there would result an enormous saving of infant life, a greatly lowered maternal mortality, and a vast diminution in the number of lesions demanding operative treatment at a later stage, and so often resulting in permanent impairment of health and usefulness.