

vigorous traction efforts made with the forceps, the child being born with its head so injured that it lived but a short time. The second labor resulted in the spontaneous delivery of a very small child (not weighed). The third labor was a Cæsean section done by Dr. Howard A. Kelly, with delivery of a child weighing six and fifteen-sixteenth pounds. The fourth labor was induced five weeks before term, by Dr. Kelly and myself, and the baby, a girl, was delivered by me with difficulty, after the application of the high forceps. She weighed five and one thirty-second pounds.

Mrs. G.'s pelvic measurements are as follows: Anterior superior spines, 24 centimetres; cristæ ilii, 26 centimetres; external conjugate, 16.5 centimetres; conjugata diagonalis, 8.5 centimetres; conjugata vera (estimated), 7 centimetres. My thorough knowledge of the capacity of her pelvis, and my lively recollection of the difficulties encountered in delivering the premature child by forceps, made me hesitate to again induce labor. I decided instead to permit the patient to go to full term and then to deliver by symphyseotomy. The patient was informed that her labor would be the first in which symphyseotomy had been done instead of inducing premature labor. My conclusion had the indorsement of Drs. Harris and Parish. Symphyseotomy was done on December 5, 1892, and was followed by the high application of the forceps, and the delivery of a boy weighing eight and one-eighth pounds. The details of this symphyseotomy and the reasons why it was advised have been reported in a communication to the College of Physicians. The mother made a good recovery and again became pregnant. She was delivered a second time under symphyseotomy and the application of the forceps, on March 19, 1894, of a girl weighing six and six-sixteenth pounds, and recovered without other incident than a mammary abscess. She is thus the first woman in the United States upon whom a second symphyseotomy has been performed, as well as the first woman in the world upon whom symphyseotomy has been done in preference to the induction of premature labor.

In conclusion, I submit this paper as a contribution to modern obstetrics, in the hope that it may aid in quickening the interest of the profession in the rights of the unborn child. As the subject is comparatively new, it is probable that

the general experience of the profession will modify our views in certain particulars; but, as progress is ever forward, such changes will almost surely be in the direction of adding to the life-saving value of the agencies already at our command.

Selected Articles.

HEREDITY: ITS RELATION TO INSANITY AND IDIOCY.

In response to an invitation from your President and Secretary to participate in the discussion of the subject of "Heredity in its Relation to Insanity and Idiocy," a promise was made to divide with others the time that might be assigned to its consideration.

There has always existed a deep seated conviction that certain diseases are transmissible by inheritance from parent to offspring. This conviction is strongly fortified by an array of statistics which, if accepted without reservation, might in themselves establish the fact. It is quite common to place insanity and idiocy in this category. So prevalent is the belief that insanity is directly transmitted by inheritance that in medico-legal proceedings it is usual to consider it a strong defence to show that insanity existed in the family of a person charged with crime. So well-grounded is the opinion that insanity may be due to a direct inheritance that its existence is the shadow that darkens households, affects plans of domestic arrangements, blights the happiness, and shapes the destinies of a large number of persons. Doubtless the mystery that surrounds the complex operations of the mind—the reported results of operations by physicians—the absolute ignorance of the laws of heredity—beyond the ken of human comprehension—have together conducted to the acceptance of speculations as actual results of well-established facts. Doubtless religious views, coincidences of events, overworked facts and ignorance have exercised an influence in the formation of opinions of this subject and their unquestioned acceptance.

That every species produces its kind is a universally recognized law. That there are physical and psychical characteristics which belong to the individuals making up the many nationalities which are transmitted and preserved from generation to generation; that there are so-called temperaments which have a certain uniformity of physical and psychical development so that they may be recognized and described, is a matter of common observation. Darwin has also presented the theory "that each of the atoms or units constituting an organism reproduces itself."