

CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

Conducted by A. J. MacKENZIE, B.A., M.B.

FULL TERM PLACENTA WITHOUT A FOETUS.

AT the meeting of the "New York Post-Graduate Clinical Society" on March 7th, as reported in the "*Post-Graduate*," two cases were recorded of this rather rare condition; in the first a full-sized placenta was delivered accompanied by a form of an encysted foetus of about one month; in the other there was no foetus but a calcareous spot in the centre of the full-sized placenta.

THE INFLUENCE OF PHOSPHORUS ON ORGANIC SUBSTANCES IN PILLS.

FOR the determination of this influence (*British Medical Journal*, March 8th) an investigation was undertaken by W. H. Martindale, London, combinations of the common alkaloids with phosphorous in pill being used, with the ordinary bases. The examination after the interval of more than a month in all cases showed that there was no interaction or decomposition in this form of preparation, and that no considerable amount of oxidation of the metal had taken place.

SWALLOWING A METALLIC DENTURE, TREATED SUCCESSFULLY BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF COTTON WOOL.

IN the Medical Press, April 2nd, 1902 G. J. Johnston, of Dublin, reports a case in which a metallic denture, weighing ninety-five grains and measuring four centimetres by one and a half, was swallowed; severe pain and dyspnoea were at first experienced, but it was passed on to the stomach, where it caused less trouble. Dr. Johnston gave finely frayed cotton wool in the form of sandwiches with bread and butter; pain was experienced in the right iliac fossa, presumably when the foreign body was passing the ileo-caecal valve, but after the administration of a mild purgative the denture was passed on the eighth day from the time that it was swallowed, and it was found to be tightly wrapped with the cotton wool, forming, without doubt, a most efficient protective to the tissues with which it had come in contact. The X-rays had failed to