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THE FORCEPS.*

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Professor Japp Sinclair, of Manchester, came to Canada in 1897 and told us the obstetricians were the providers of material for the gynecologists through unskilful use of the midwifery forceps.

Bandelocque, on the other hand, has stated that the midwifery forceps is the most valuable instrument that has ever been invented. We believe the great mass of obstetricians in all civilized countries endorse this statement and conscientiously and intelligently use the forceps to shorten the suffering and diminish the risk of childbirth.

No one will deny that much injury is done in certain cases by the unskilful use of the forceps. According to Sinclair and those who agree with him, the common fault is the premature use of the forceps. Laphorn Smith makes the very serious accusation that the doctors use the instrument early, without any regard to the condition of the parts, simply to save time. This is, of course, not a new charge, and we may admit that some physicians apply the forceps prematurely to save their own time and suit their own convenience. The man, however, who does such a thing is guilty of a criminal act. Premature use of the forceps is always dangerous. Make it a positive rule in practice never to use the forceps through a partially dilated os.

Milne Murray refers to a form of spasmodic rigidity which is especially dangerous for forceps delivery. For instance, a

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