

private cases when infection is feared, while the gross cleanliness would answer in ordinary cases in routine obstetric work.

We do not think that the terms, gross and microscopic, are exactly suitable ; but we quite agree with the idea that our schools should impart instruction in asepticism and antisepticism in both a scientific and practical way. We sincerely trust that they are endeavoring to do so now. Most, if not all, pretend that they are, and we venture to hope that they are meeting with a fair amount of success.

The subject is one of vast importance. Preventable deaths are occurring in large numbers from year to year. We hope the numbers in Canada are diminishing, but the general results are still far from satisfactory. Women die from puerperal fever, notwithstanding the supposed excellent teaching in our schools and hospitals, and the numerous and wise discussions in our medical societies. Let us continue to preach and teach ; let us work diligently in season and out of season ; let us ever press forward toward the goal of perfect cleanliness, which, after all, is the most potent barrier against septicism. Germicides are useful in a way, as adjuncts, but that is all. He who thinks that antiseptics will counteract the evil influences of dirty fingers, dirty instruments, or dirty surroundings, and acts accordingly, is a dangerous person. Yet many such there are, and much evil do they accomplish.

SHOULD PHYSICIANS CHARGE EACH OTHER FOR MEDICAL SERVICES ?

THE question of payment for services to the families of brother physicians has recently been discussed by certain American medical journals. It is said that a few physicians and surgeons have adopted the custom of rendering accounts in the ordinary way at tariff prices, while others charge half the regular fees. This is in accordance with the old saying, so frequently repeated, that "business is business," which, being translated, generally means that the particular "business" referred to includes something small, or mean, or probably both. We trust that the numbers of physicians who deal with their brethren in distress on so-called business principles are exceedingly small in the United States ; we hope they are *nil* in Canada.

The old custom of helping each other in sickness and in distress is one of the most praiseworthy that has ever been known to the profession of medicine. If there be any good in us, the observance of this sort of