

imitation (*vide* Second Commandment)—but lends all her resources to art. Microscope or telescope, bicycle or lightning express does not meddle with the functions of eye or limbs, and yet increases their power a thousand-fold. This whole valley of San Bernardino when left to nature was utterly barren and worthless. Art tun- nelled into the mountains, tapped an abundant supply of water and now the soil is unexcelled in fertility. Why, then, since it is the rule for nature to yield her resources to art, should the obstetri- cian be so stupid and incredulous about using all that his art can render in relieving the sufferings, and when necessary, limiting the duration of labor cases. Acting on this rule, the systematic and continuous application of art in all obstetric practice would make our procedure consistent with our methods in medical and surgical work, and give an incalculable amount of relief from the anxiety that precedes, and the intense agony incident to, the act of par- turation. It would also act as a powerful stimulus in augmenting obstetric skill. The present antiquated and disreputable routine would give place to some such standard as the following—contain- ing, of course, such modifications as knowledge and experience would suggest:

1. The obstetrician should possess the fullest possible control over his mental faculties, and a thorough knowledge of the resources of his art. Thousands of lives have been sacrificed directly through the absence of one or both of these.

2. The art of making a thoroughly aseptic, scientific, efficient and painless examination. Scores of ladies refuse the services of many an otherwise reputable man on account of his brutal methods of making an examination. The obstetric fingers can acquire all the sensitiveness, pliancy and delicacy of touch that the fingers of the pianist have. Any infliction of pain is evidence of ignorance or culpability or both.

3. The most reliable aseptic precautions and conditions most religiously carried out during whole puerperal period. Praying for God-speed to the time when an inquest will be held in every case of death during this period. The aseptically righteous men will have nothing to fear—septic sinners will deserve the penitentiary.

4. Surroundings—These should be made as cheerful and com- fortable as possible. A thousand and one things will suggest themselves to the observant eye.

5. Relief from unnecessary pain. Some patients can endure what is intolerable to others. The unbearable pain can be mitigated by mental diversion, change of position or anodynes.

6. The earliest possible resort to the use of anæsthetics and forceps consistent with the most absolute safety to both mother and child. Now, I am well aware, from a pretty extensive reading of obstetric literature, and from what I have often heard some strong and reliable teachers, as Adam Wright, Machell and Macdonald, say at meetings of Toronto Medical Society, that the last proposition will scarcely be allowed to go unchallenged. However, adopting