

veniently in the obstetric bag, in the shape of the tablets which can be procured from all druggists.

The ordinary routine, in all cases of labor, should consist in perfect cleansing of the hands with warm water and soap, before making an examination. In addition, it is well to have a solution of bichloride, 1-2000, in a separate vessel, for further cleansing of the hands. The accoucheur should have his own lubricant in the shape of borated vaseline, or something of that sort. If he has not this at hand, he should not use every specimen of lard or grease which may be presented to him. We think ordinary soap and water are safer, even though the soap may to some extent neutralize the germicidal effects of the bichloride. A similar warm bichloride solution is one of the best that can be used for washing the external genitals after labor is completed, or warm water alone will answer very well. The "little carbolic acid" that may be added by the nurse for the same purpose, simply makes a certain amount of *smell*, without accomplishing any good.

The directions about cleanliness are exceedingly simple and easy to carry out. They appear to be too simple for some great minds, and are frequently, through that or other reasons, neglected. This neglect of these simple precautions is the common cause of puerperal septicæmia. The poison is generally introduced from without on dirty finger tips. We agree with Dr. Gardiner in thinking that, in the absence of septicæmia, nature is generally able to effect a cure even when there is considerable bruising; and probably we would not be very wide of the mark if we considered that there is always considerable bruising. Laceration of the cervix is very common, if it does not occur in the majority of cases, and our correspondent is correct in supposing that nature is generally able to unite such tears, and probably does her work better when there is no interference. Meddlesome midwifery is a nuisance—dirty midwifery is an abomination.

CENTRAL BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

An important act has been recently passed by the legislature of the State of New York which will materially affect the standing and sta-

tus of the medical profession in that State. The bill was approved June 5, 1890, and will go into effect September 1st, 1891. According to the text of the bill, as published in the Buffalo *Medical and Surgical Journal*, there will be three separate boards of medical examiners: one representing the Medical Society of the State of New York, one representing the Homœopathic Medical Society of the State, and one representing the Eclectic Medical Society of the State. These three boards of medical examiners will be under the supervision of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. The questions for the various examinations will be submitted by the three boards to the Board of Regents, who will choose the questions to be used in such a way that these will be of the same standard for all candidates in all subjects, excepting practice of medicine, therapeutics, and materia medica. Each examination will be under the supervision of the Board of Regents, through an examiner appointed by that board, such examiner not being a member of any of the three boards of examiners.

This arrangement will throw the responsibility of conducting the examinations chiefly on the Board of Regents. This will be, practically, the central board of examiners for the State, and will be very much like our system in Ontario, where the board of examiners for the Medical Council is supreme in the matter of granting license to practice. A degree or diploma from any university, or teaching body, will cease to carry with it a license to practice in the State of New York. The power to grant such license will be entirely in the hands of this Board of Regents. The act also demands a preliminary education, in accordance with the standard and rules of the board. Such preliminary examination may be passed at any time before the completion of the first year's studies. Each candidate for the final examination will be required to have attended lectures during at least three full sessions. Arrangements have been made for the recognition of similar licenses granted by examining boards of other States, providing that they show a standard of requirements equal to that of New York.

This is likely to raise, considerably, the general standard of education in New York, and other States adopting similar regulations. It is not