

walked her about and fatigued her so much that she was quite exhausted and the pains had entirely ceased. The midwife complained that her fingers were swelled and painful with stretching the birth, but she did not know how long the waters had been discharged." Smellie gave directions with the object of obtaining some rest for the patient, and early the next morning delivered her with the forceps, "without lacerating her parts or even marking the child's head."

By way of illustration of the theory of the next generation in this period, I may quote from the "Practical Essays on the Management of Pregnancy and Labour," by Dr. John Clarke, published in London in 1793 : "Violence offered by the improper use of instruments may also become a cause of fever ; therefore they ought never to be employed in any case except where they are absolutely and indispensably necessary. He who uses them unnecessarily, and solely with the intention of saving his own time, has much to answer for, both to society and to his conscience."

If instead of accepting an opinion, we prefer to turn to a record of facts in order to draw our own conclusions, let us look into the "Practical Treatise on Midwifery," by Dr. Robert Collins, published in 1835. The author gives an account of 16,414 cases of labour in the Dublin Lying-in Hospital during his Mastership. The rules laid down by Collins for the use of the forceps sound very much like some contained in the most recent German literature on the same subject. He says, "In tedious labours, where the mouth of the womb is fully dilated, the soft parts relaxed, and the head so low in the pelvis as to bring the ear within reach of the finger, if there be a necessity for interference, the forceps may be used with advantage ; but ample experience has most fully proved to me, that under those circumstances, uterine action fails but seldom in expelling the child, and that it is only in cases as above described, where the *safety* of the patient *requires assistance*, that we are justified in using this instrument."

In 16,414 deliveries in the Hospital, he met with but fourteen cases answering this description ; in eleven of which the forceps were used, and in three, the lever. In the other instances where the forceps was applied the labours were complex.

There are several other situations in which the forceps may be applied with much benefit, as in convulsions, hæmorrhages, etc., where the case is in other respects suited to their application ; these are pointed out in the remarks on the treatment of such labours.

"The forceps was used during my mastership 24 times, and