

ing about an unfavorable result. After a trial which lasted four days, the Dr. was honorably acquitted. We are glad to learn that McKay's reputation will not suffer by this trial. The evidence went to shew that he was not only an intelligent and skillful practitioner, but an excellent man of business.

LACERATION OF THE PERINEUM.—The two clinical lectures by Dr. Goodell, of Philadelphia, on "Laceration of the Perineum, its prevention and cure," are most valuable and original, and are well worthy the perusal of all accoucheurs. Among the causes he says—and we agree with him—"many lacerations are owing to the common mistake of making such long continued and firm pressure on the perineum as to make it hot, dry, and unyielding, and also to prevent it from undergoing an equable dilutation." "In the great majority of labours the perineum does best when let alone." He adds, "In the majority of cases of laceration in which the anal sphincters are involved, you will, I am sorry to say, find that the labor has been an instrumental one. Yet there are cases in which the very use of the forceps protects the perineum." Still he goes on to say, "I have seen so many bad rents attending the use of the instrument, even in practical hands, that I cannot withhold the opinion that, in the majority of cases, nature can accomplish final delivery of the head through the soft parts much better than the physician. . . . My advice to you, therefore, is that, other things being equal, as soon as the perineum is well dilated, you should remove the forceps." As an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, he says, "apart from a direct and retarding pressure upon the presenting part itself, the only manual aid that I permit myself occasionally to give is as follows. Insert one or two fingers of the right hand into the rectum, and hook up and pull forward the sphincter ani toward the pubes. The thumb of the same hand is meanwhile to be placed upon the foetal head, scrupulously avoiding all contact with the perineum." This method he strongly advocates. Through sentiments of delicacy many lacerations are not detected at once, and may lead to much inconvenience to the patient, and damage to the reputation of the practitioner. He says, "make it, therefore, an inflexible rule to stretch open the vulva, and visually

examine the perineum, and unless the rent is simply cutaneous or very slight indeed, you must perform the primary or immediate operation, that is, you must at once sew up the wound." He uses wire sutures with an inch deep of hold.

GERMS OF DISEASE.—There seems much reason to fear, says the *Lancet*, that too little attention has been bestowed on the important subject, "What becomes of germs of disease after a cleansing process?" Filth is washed away, but where? If water holding the poison in suspension is thrown into ordinary drains, it will become the agent for distributing disease. This is a very grave consideration. Disinfecting, properly so called, is not a precaution commonly carried out. It is generally deemed sufficient to purify the particular articles supposed to be foul, without regard to what the destination of the germs removed may be. It is very doubtful whether this particular point receives a due share of thought in public institutions. Certainly there is room for improvement in the domestic and laundry methods of "purification." The only effectual measure for arresting the spread of infection is one which destroys the vitality of the germ where it is found.

INSPECTION OF TENEMENT HOUSES IN CITIES.—We would like to see the regulation for the sanitary inspection of tenement houses in vogue in Glasgow, universally adopted, because no class of people are obliged to submit to so great injustice as the class occupying tenement dwellings in large cities. Leaky roofs, cracked walls, paneless windows, doors without proper locks and hinges, walls and ceilings requiring repairs, badly arranged sinks and water closets, imperfect drainage, are only a few of the inconveniences this class is subjected to. They should all be regularly cleansed and whitewashed with *lime wash* (not papered) once or twice a year, under direction of the sanitary officers, to prevent harbouring diseases or spreading epidemics, and a printed list of sanitary instructions kept pasted up in every dwelling by order of the Board of Health. In Glasgow, all houses within certain limits of size are under sanitary police inspection. Every door bears the register of the number of cubic feet of space contained in the dwelling, and the number of inhabitants it is licensed to contain. This should be burned into the wood to prevent removal, and is