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THE USE OF MORPHINE AND SCOPOLAMINE IN LABOR, WITH REPORT OF ONE HUNDRED CASES.*

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Common humanity urges the medical man to search for some means to ease the pains of labor. Chloroform has done much to relieve the excruciating agony of the latter stage of labor, but it is also true that accidents have followed its use. In many cases it has, without doubt, become necessary to apply forceps, because of its too early or prolonged use. In how many cases obstetricians have yielded to their own impatience and the importunities of the friends and applied forceps unnecessarily it would be hard to say, but it is certain there would be no small number. That there is an increase in the use of forceps in confinement is almost universally admitted, nor is this increase altogether to be explained by the impatience or meddlesomeness of the modern obstetrician. The reason is, we think, to be found in the lessened capacity of the modern woman to bear pain. On this point Prof. Kronig (6) says: "In private practice it is only in the vast minority of cases that the so-called classical indication calls for the application of forceps; by far the largest number of operative confinements is necessitated by nervous exhaustion on the part

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