

year. The opinions expressed by Dr. Bingham and others who took part in the discussion will form the text for a few remarks in this paper. One of the interesting features was the marked differences in the opinions expressed. To speak briefly there were practically two groups. Those in one party recommended small incisions, no irrigation, free drainage, Fowler's position, no administration of opium. The others recommended large incisions, thorough irrigation, no drainage (complete closure), recumbent posture, deep narcotism.

Let us consider the matter from the standpoint of the obstetrician, the gynecologist, and the general practitioner. Why are the differences in opinion so marked? Which set of men are right, and which are wrong? We have to say in this connection that many of the discussions on this and cognate subjects that have taken place in recent years have been neither temperate nor dignified; and the Toronto discussion was no better than the average in that regard.

One should suppose that the results obtained would aid us much in reaching a decision. Both parties, however, claim success, and report a large percentage of recoveries. Under such circumstances it would seem fair to conclude that both parties are right in part at least. If the exponents of the two widely different methods consulted and discussed matters in a friendly way, it seems probable that they might learn much from each other. It seems unfortunate that the champions on one side so frequently endeavor to prove that those on the other side are entirely wrong.

In commenting on the points raised and the opinions expressed I shall refer chiefly to irrigation, drainage, the position of the patient, and the administration of morphine. No special reference will be made to elimination, administration of hot salt solutions, silver solutions, calomel, strychnine, sera, etc., although they are of course very important.

*Irrigation.*—One can say, probably, without fear of contradiction, that irrigation has to some extent gone out of fashion. Many surgeons do not now wash out an empyema. Many gynecologists do not now wash out a pelvic abscess. Where