

should be cautioned against bearing down, and when the os was completely distended chloroform should be given. After the reading of the paper was concluded a lively discussion ensued.

In answer to Dr. Mullin, of Hamilton, Dr. Holmes said that laceration of the cervix occurred in 33 p. c. of deliveries.

Dr. Temple, of Toronto, in this operation said he prefers the scissors to the knife, as then there is less hemorrhage. He gives no anæsthetics when operating. The cervix should be protected from injury during the first stage of labour, and gr.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of morphia should be administered hypodermically to relax the os when rigid.

Dr. Zimmerman inquired in what number of forceps cases laceration occurred. Dr. Holmes replied that three out of the nine cases operated on by him were lacerated by the forceps.

Dr. Gardner of London wanted to know in what class of cases during labor laceration occurred. Dr. Holmes replied, where there was a rigid os and strong expulsive pains.

Dr. Macfarlane of Toronto held that in many cases the cervix and perineum will be ruptured in spite of all precautions, and that meddlesome midwifery is bad midwifery. Where rupture occurs, he does not operate, but trusts to nature and rest. Thirty-three per cent he thought a too great percentage of lacerated cases. Subinvolution is, in his opinion, more often caused by letting the patient up too soon than by laceration of the cervix.

After a few remarks from the President and Dr. Bray of Chatham, Dr. McFayden said the reason older men had not seen more laceration was because they did not examine patients properly. This should, first of all, be done with the finger, and afterwards the woman should be examined in the Simms' position, with a duck bill or Simms' speculum.

Dr. Albert McDonald of Toronto remarked that if the laceration was slight, operation might be avoided. He also advised sewing up the cervix and perineum at the same time, if necessary.

Dr. Mullin of Hamilton said he had attended all kinds of people with small and large heads, and he had not seen many cases of