

lithotrity, which latter is generally considered to be a modern innovation; but curiously enough, it is recorded of Ammonius who flourished somewhere about two hundred years before Christ, "that he invented and used an instrument for crushing stones in the bladder." But to detail all the brilliant results of surgery would occupy too much time. Probably it is the brilliancy of these great operations attract the mind of the student to the exclusion of these operations in minor surgery which are most commonly met with, and which constitute the bulk of surgery. As much skill and judgment is required in these minor details as is required to perform a great operation, the success of which is often depending upon the careful attention to minutiae as to the operation itself. The operation may be successful, but the patient may die from some minor neglect and thus bring discredit upon the whole proceeding.

In obstetrics we have an instance of an art rescued from degradation by the advance of civilization. At one time it was regarded by the profession as being beneath the dignity of man to have anything to do with it. But as valuable lives often depended upon the skill of the accoucher the public demanded that something better than old wives experience should be furnished. The removal of the sentimental prejudice against men attending confinements cleared the way for the efforts which have been made to give this art its proper position, and among its followers we have the names of individuals, such as Sir J. T. Simpson, who have been prominent in discovery and who have done much for medical science. The advocates of female medical education base their claims for the entrance of women into the profession chiefly on this branch, and bring as proof the fact that in all centuries and among all classes women have been the obstetric attendants. This has been the case for the reason that man considered it beneath his dignity, and especially from the fact that in all uncivilized races the life of a woman bears but little value. This practice of employing women would be apt to continue as civilization advanced, because it would take time to force people to see the necessity of change. It was not till the superior civilization of the Romans that men were first employed, and the greater the civilization the more men will you find as accouchers. Not only are the lives of women of more value but from their modes of living, greater difficulties occur, while among savages labour is an easy process, and therefore the employment of old women midwives is going out of fashion. Any old wife who has had five or six

children thinks she is capable of taking charge of a case, and after a normal attendance upon lectures, the matter of which, being above her comprehension, she cannot understand, is furnished with a license to practice. I am not opposed to the employment of women in these cases, there are many among the poor, who cannot afford to pay a nurse as well as a doctor; but less ignorance should be seen than at present, so that difficulties would be early detected and a doctor obtained, for the skilled accoucher observes and is able to rectify dangerous conditions at an early stage. If we could tabulate the experience of physicians we would, I have no doubt, find that their most difficult cases have come to them through the hands of a midwife. Your success in life will largely depend upon the manner in which you conduct this department, especially in country practice; you will have to pass before a self-constituted board of matrons. Many a man has commenced a successful career by the verdict thus given and many have met with disappointment. Till within a very late period the diseases peculiar to women were almost unknown, but so much has lately been added to our knowledge of them, that you will find yourselves called upon to attend a large number of such cases almost daily. Of the remaining portion of your studies a few words may suffice. Medical Jurisprudence is often followed as a specialty as it seldom falls to the lot of the general practitioner to be engaged in cases which require an expert's decision. Excepting at inquests you will seldom be required to give an opinion involving the life of a fellow being. On the other hand, Hygiene will require much of your attention. "Prevention is better than cure," and as many diseases are preventable, and the public are now aware of the fact, you will often be called upon to advise measures to stamp out epidemic and other disorders. The apathy which clings to the public mind on this subject is something astonishing, and were it not for the persistent efforts of sanitarians backed by the occasional outbreak of disease in exalted personages, as in the case of the Prince of Wales, nothing whatever would be done to correct such evils. In communities like the one in which we live, evils are perpetuated which could be remedied. Indeed it is remarkable to note the objections and difficulties which are placed in the way of sanitary measures. For instance willful ignorance has in this city set itself to combat the benefits of vaccination, and has adopted disreputable means to gain a hearing; but it is altogether too late for to disprove the value of