

an instrument in moderately skilled hands, that it ought to be employed before any symptoms of powerless labor set in. No one in the present day would think of endangering a woman's life by waiting, as Denman recommended, until the pains of labor had ceased and the head had been six hours as low as the perineum. It is quite a sufficient justification for using the forceps that the progress of labor has been arrested for a time, and that the head has ceased to advance. When the forceps is thus employed in good time, the accoucheur can take time about the operation and imitate nature as closely as possible; but, if he wait for symptoms of powerless labor, he will have to deliver in too great a hurry, and when his efforts are not efficiently seconded by the pains. In the first stage of labor, above all, the delivery should be effected slowly and cautiously. Urgent symptoms have not yet set in, and the accoucheur can, therefore, afford to wait. He should only extract during the pains, and should not mind if the operation occupy three or even four hours, as it did in my last case. He will thus give ample time for the soft parts to dilate and avoid the danger of lacerations.

My experience, then, of the application of the forceps during the first stage of labor is, that the operation, when properly performed, is safe, and very often useful, although seldom imperatively demanded; moreover, that it requires a considerable amount of that *tactus eruditus* which can only be acquired by practice, and, therefore, it should not be performed by any man until he has used the forceps at least a dozen times during the second stage of labor; and I am induced, on the whole, to agree with Dr. Playfair's conclusion that, "if the os be not fully dilated, but is sufficiently so to admit of the passage of the forceps, the operation under urgent circumstances, may be quite justifiable, although it must necessarily be a somewhat anxious one.—*British Medical Journal*, April 28, 1877, p. 508.

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MONTREAL, AUGUST, 1877.

We are glad to learn from many sources that our remarks in our last issue, concerning the Tri-Annual Meeting of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, have met with very general approval. We trust that they may result in a much more personal interest being taken in all

the proceedings of the College. Without this direct interest from those who in reality should be the guiders of its destiny—an effective governing board cannot be elected. The more we consider the proceedings at Three Rivers the more unfortunate do they seem to us. Never, in our experience, have we seen a meeting, composed presumably of gentlemen, conduct themselves with so utter a disregard of the simplest rules of a deliberative assembly. Order and decorum there was none—and it was impossible to consider several points of importance which were brought forward and attempted to be discussed. The arguments used by several, whose position and experience should have carried weight, where reason held sway, were lost in the roar and babel of voices. We drop the curtain, but trust, in all charity, we may never have such a meeting repeated.

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

This Association meets in Montreal on the 12th of September, and from what we can learn, there is every prospect that the attendance will be large. Quite a number of very interesting papers are already on the programme, so that a profitable as well as a pleasant time is anticipated. We believe that a Reception Committee has been appointed to look after the entertainment of the guests.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Lachapelle has been appointed Professor of Hygiene in Victoria Medical School.

Dr. Neilson, of B. Battery of Canadian Artillery, sailed from Quebec by the Allan Steamship *Sarmatian*, on the 25th of August. We understand that Dr. Neilson is sent to Europe by the Dominion Government, to undergo a special course of Military Medical training at Netley Hospital.

Dr. Burroughs, of Quebec, is attached to B Battery, and will perform duty with it during the absence of Surgeon Neilson.

Dr. Henry Shoebottom, (M.D., McGill College, 1855,) has removed to Port Huron, Mich., from Sarnia, Ont.

At the meeting of the London Obstetrical Society, held on the 2nd of last May, Dr. Barnes exhibited, for Dr. Scott, of Woodstock, Canada, a pessary for complete