

risks of which laceration of the cervix, and uterine phlebitis are frequent. It is scarcely necessary I hope, to mention that strict antiseptic precautions should be taken, and especially in placenta presentations where the fingers, the hand, or the instruments come in contact with the open ends of the uterine veins. Ergot is recommended, but it produces tetanic not rhythmical contractions. It closes the uterus upon its contents, but does not favor their expulsion. This treatment constitutes the *modus operandi* in dealing with placental presentations, but you will, I fear, find no two cases alike, and the accoucheur will find himself at sea if he adheres too closely to the stereotyped rules laid down in the text-books. I may tell you that it has been my good fortune to have attended 1,523 cases of labour in this city without a death, and a carefully kept record of the same shows that amongst that number there were, *instrumental* 83, *version* for various causes 10, *twins* 16, *triplets* 1, *alarming post partum hæmorrhage* 6, *concealed hæmorrhage* 1, *placenta prævia* 3.

D. PHELAN.

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## THE STUDY OF ANATOMY.

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THERE is no knowledge so necessary to the successful practice of medicine, surgery, or obstetrics as that of anatomy. It matters not from what point of view we approach the human subject, a knowledge of anatomy is the first essential of success. In his college years the student instinctively looks upon anatomy as the foundation of his studies. He gives that subject his best attention. He regards it with a respect or veneration far beyond his other subjects. The qualities of the student seem tested by his study of anatomy. The successful anatomist is looked upon as the man of his year. And the knowledge thus obtained guides him throughout his entire course, winning laurels for him on every side. If he wish to prosecute his studies still further he will find a knowledge of anatomy absolutely necessary. In the examinations for the English degrees anatomy has a place in nearly every subject without a thorough knowledge of which, it is next to impossible to become either a member or a fellow of the Royal College. It is a matter of great regret that when the days of his examinations have ceased, the student holds that his