

The *British Medical Journal*, with the beginning of the year, has cut its leaves—an immense convenience to all its readers. Another new feature is the establishment of a "Confessional," in which mistakes, errors, or ignorances, can be anonymously reported *pro bono publico*. This feature is to be specially commended. Few men have the nerve to report anything that may possibly tell against them in any way. Journals are filled with glowing accounts of success, to such an extent as to give a very wrong impression of what the status of medical and surgical progress really is. The "Confessional," it is to be hoped, will prove a counter-check. Other journals, perhaps all, could establish it with advantage.—*Ohio Recorder*.

In the *Revista de Medicina y Cirujia Practicas*, published in Madrid on the 22nd Sept., 1878, a remarkable case is recorded as occurring in the surgical clinic of Prof. Kreus. It was a case of normal pregnancy with death of the foetus at the seventh month, due to a violent fall on the part of the mother. Putrefaction within the womb occurred, and fistulous tracts were formed through the cervix uteri and through the abdominal wall; when these latter formed, those through the cervix healed up. Gastrotomy was performed by Prof. Kreus twenty-seven months after conception. Some fever and signs of slight peritonitis were present for a few days; but the patient subsequently did uninterruptedly well, and a complete recovery ensued.

DIAGNOSIS OF THE PERSISTENCE OF THE DUCTUS ARTERIOSUS.—M. Fr. Franck makes an interesting communication to the French Association for the Advancement of Science, in regard to the diagnosis of the persistence of the ductus arteriosus. The diagnosis is founded on the following signs:—The existence of a systolic murmur behind the chest, on the left side of the vertebral column between the spines of the vertebræ and the vertebral border of the scapula, about the level of the third and fourth dorsal vertebræ. The strengthening of this murmur during inspiration. The marked increase of the effects of inspiration upon the arterial pulse. The absence of cyanosis if there are no other congenital lesions.—*Arch. Gen. de Med.—Practitioner*.

CHARITY FOR ERRORS IN DIAGNOSIS.—Prof. D. Hays Agnew, in his address before the Pennsylvania Medical Society, closes with the following words: "There are some persons who never commit errors, or, committing them, never have the magnanimity to acknowledge that they were deceived. I confess that I am humbled every year in making errors in diagnosis. Like Lucretius, I sink the lead over and over again and find no bottom. Indeed, I know I shall never attain to such an imperial reach of wisdom that disease will surrender all its secrets at my bidding. I shall make mistakes as long as I am in the flesh. There never was but one physician who knew all the truth, and He was divine. With what tenderness does nature conceal her unsightly deformities by the interlacing tendrils of ivy or rhus, which she so ingeniously spreads over the smitten tree or the rugged cliff. Emulating her example, let us over each other's imperfections draw with loving hand the veil of charity." There are few medical men, we imagine, who were taught in Philadelphia during the last two decades that do not remember with pleasure the lectures of Professor Agnew at the Pennsylvania Hospital. There was so much earnestness, common sense, and honesty in his discourse that Prof. Agnew was a favorite with all the schools.—*Louis. Med. News*.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES, TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL.—The Trustees of the Toronto General Hospital have made arrangements for giving, at the Hospital, two years' training to women desirous of becoming professional nurses. Persons wishing to receive this course must apply either to the medical superintendent of the hospital, or to the lady superintendent, upon whose approval they will be accepted as pupils in the hospital. Candidates must be over twenty and under thirty-five years of age. They must be of sound health, and must present, on application, a certificate from some responsible person as to their good character. Applicants will be received one month on probation. During this month they are boarded and lodged at the expense of the hospital, but will receive no compensation should they leave or be discharged before the expiration of the