

had on my mind while speaking four cases that came to my knowledge. In two of these, my father, and in another a medical friend, recently deceased, were called in consultation. The patients were all in the hands of experienced practitioners of the old school. In each case the woman was allowed to suffer for seventy-two hours or upwards. In one of them, the attendant, when the friends in their anxiety asked if nothing could be done, said, "If you call in one of these young men he will use instruments, the suffering of the patient will be horrible, and the result generally fatal." In each of these cases the consulting physician easily, rapidly, and speedily terminated the labour with the forceps, and in each case relief came too late to save the mother. She died from exhaustion. The reaction caused by such practice with such results, may have carried some of us too far. Some of us may use the forceps too often, but the results can scarcely be so disastrous as the opposite.

I did not—as Dr. Walton supposes—stigmatize allowing nature to terminate a labour, where she was capable of doing it, as being "irresolute," etc., but waiting until your patient was beyond human aid before operating.

Dr. Walton says "the proof of the pudding," etc. Well, sir, after forty years' experience, in which I have had more than my share of bad cases, and have used the forceps a great many times, I can say that I never lost a forceps case nor saw any bad result after their use, and I do not see that I have any reason to alter my opinion or my practice.

Very truly yours,

THOS. V. J. HARRISON.

Selkirk, Ont.

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### Personals.

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Dr. John Ross, of Embro, has been appointed an associate coroner for the county of Oxford.

Dr. Retta Gifford, of Owen Sound, a graduate of Toronto Ladies' Medical College, will leave shortly for China to labour in the Methodist mission field.

Dr. G. S. Ryerson has been nominated by the Conservative party to contest the seat for the legis-

lature, rendered vacant by the death of N. G. Bigelow, Q.C.

Drs. B. Spencer, J. Lesslie, P. J. Strathy, A. Meyers, A. J. Harrington, R. A. Pyne and J. M. Cotton, were elected Fellows of the Toronto Clinical Society, at the meeting held Dec. 11th.

Dr. J. D. Thorburn, of this city, has entirely recovered from a severe illness, due to diphtheria. It is the third time he has suffered from this disease. His previous attacks were when he was in Europe.

The Legislative Committee is composed of Dr. Williams, of Ingersoll, Chairman; Dr. Fowler, President of the Council; Dr. Campbell, Vice-President; Dr. Bergin, of Cornwall; Dr. Day, of Belleville, and Dr. Britton, of Toronto. All were present at their meeting on Thursday, Jan. 12.

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### Book Notices.

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The "American Text Book of Surgery," edited by Professors Keen & White, of Philadelphia, which has only been issued a few months, is already a phenomenal success. It has been adopted as a "Text Book" by forty-nine of the leading Medical Colleges and Universities. Nearly five thousand copies have been placed in physicians' libraries, and every indication points to a sale of at least as many copies more in the next six months.

Dr. Nicholas Senn, of Chicago, is now preparing a "Syllabus of Lectures on the Practice of Surgery," arranged in conformity with the "American Text Book of Surgery," which will be a valuable aid to all who have this great book.

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*Hand-Book of the Diseases of the Eye.* By H. A. SWANZY, A.M., M.B., F.R.C.S.I. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co.

Mr. Swanzy's well-known work appears in a fourth edition, with much new material added, and having been carefully revised, is well up to date. An accurate description of Holmgren's method of testing for colour blindness has been added, rendering the work useful to the Railway Surgeon. It is also very full of detailed information on the