

recommendations are in the main excellent, and are now being considered by the various teaching bodies. They are—that every student be required to have conducted no less than 20 cases of labor, subject to the following conditions:

- A. Before the student is allowed to conduct the above-mentioned 20 cases of labor he should be required to have held the office of clinical medical clerk and of surgical dresser; to have attended a course of lectures in medicine, surgery, and midwifery; to have during one month given undivided attendance upon the indoor practice of a lying-in hospital or the lying-in wards of a general hospital; and to have therein attended cases of labor under the direct supervision of a medical officer of the hospital. He should further be required to produce a certificate from the authorities of the hospital showing that he is competent to undertake the conduct of ordinary cases.
- B. No certificate that the student has conducted the above-mentioned 20 cases of labor should be accepted unless it is given by a member of the staff of a lying-in hospital or of the maternity charity of a general hospital.

These recommendations, when they can be rendered practicable and can be enforced, will meet some of the most important deficiencies suggested in this address.

The changes indicated in Paragraph B, may be thought to inflict some hardship upon individual students, for at the present time the requisite certificate of attendance upon twenty cases of labor may be given by any registered practitioner. But it must be remembered that under the existing regulations the certificate affords no evidence that the student has received any instruction whatever, and there is reason to believe that such indeed is *sometimes* the case.

The regulation at present in existence which demands that the student shall attend courses of systematic lectures is also faulty, since it involves unnecessary labor to the lecturer and makes too great a call on the time and attendance of the student. This remark, indeed, applies to almost all systematic lectures as delivered at the present time, and many of us think that the time has come when the arrangements for such lectures need thorough revision. The great extent and variety of the subjects, on the one hand, and the excellence of so many of the text-books on the other, make it desirable that the greater branches of medicine and surgery be taught in sections rather than in a continuous course of sixty or eighty lectures.