

OBSTETRICS.

IN CHARGE OF

H. L. REDDY, M.D., L. R. C. P., London,

Professor of Obstetrics, University of Bishop's College; Physician Accoucheur Women's Hospital; Physician to the Western Hospital.

A NEW DEVICE FOR THE ARREST OF POST PARTUM HÆMORRHAGE.

Arnott proposes a new treatment for atonic uterine hæmorrhage, though deaths from post partum flooding are not so common as formerly, now that the manual expression of the placenta has been limited to suitable cases. Duhrssen's statement that in Prussia alone there is probably one death a day from this cause shows the need of a reliable method of treatment.

Duhrssen's tamponade is valuable, but is not without danger.

Arnott's treatment consists in seizing the flaccid lips of the os with one or two bullet forceps, and forcibly but slowly drawing the uterus downwards as far as possible. This is repeated three or four times, until all hæmorrhage has ceased and the uterus is firmly contracted.

This mechanical device acts, *firstly*, by rendering the uterus anæmic; this has long been known to operating gynæcologists. Winter, Hegar and others have proved that pan-hysterectomy of even the gravid uterus for cancer can be performed without danger from hæmorrhage if this precaution is taken. *Secondly*, it not only arrests bleeding at once, but stimulates the uterus to contract, and prevents its further relaxation, partly by the irritation of the automatic ganglia in the middle layer of the uterus, and by stretching the uterine nerves in the broad ligaments, partly because anæmia of the uterus is one of the strongest stimuli to contraction.

The great advantages of the method are its certainty, simplicity and with the most elementary precautions—avoidance of sepsis.

THE PROPHYLAXIS OF PUERPERAL FEVER.

Starzewski investigated the action of Marmoreks anti-streptococcus serum in preventing rises of temperature during the puerperum, in Prof. Cyzewicz's clinic in Lemberg—288 women received consecutive numbers on admission.