

very much to the point. I agree with Dr. Evans's aphorisms, and would beg to add the following:

1. Every primipara's perineum should be exposed after delivery, and if there be tearing to any great extent, stitches should be inserted. As a corollary to this, a suitable needle, handled and strong, should be carried in the obstetric bag.

2. A perineum once torn is sure to be torn again.

I wish to say that, when I was attending midwifery cases more frequently than now, for a considerable period I examined every perineum without exception. It was a surprise to me to find how many were torn. Of these very few had ever been delivered by the forceps. Though it is true ordinary tears heal without stitching or special precautions, still stitching should be had recourse to in severe cases. In such cases patients make no objection if it be done immediately after the placenta has been removed. Strong catgut, not wire or silk, should be used, and there will then be no necessity to cut the stitches away—a troublesome and disagreeable operation—after the healing is properly advanced.

With regard to the causes of tearing, I have never noticed any of your correspondents allude to the further tearing caused by the passage of the shoulders. This I have observed in many cases to cause great aggravation of the rupture by the head. Might not a temporary stitch just at the angle of rupture stop this, if the hold were strong and wide of the wound? I have always practised withdrawing the blades of the forceps before the head passed the vulva, although some of my friends use the instrument to keep the head back when the dilatation is insufficient.

TREATMENT OF OBESITY.

MR. W. TOWERS-SMITH (Chancery Lane, W.C.) writes: During a serious illness I noticed two correspondents in your JOURNAL lately, with reference to the treatment of obesity—one of which appeared about a fortnight ago—contrasted my treatment with that of Dr. Salisbury, of New York. My course in all respects differs from his, and, as the results have shown in the treating of over a hundred cases during the past twelve months, the loss obtained remains permanent.

In the JOURNAL of May 4th "L.R.C.P." complains of a letter written by "M.D." to the JOURNAL, who treated himself mainly, without much hot water, on the lines suggested by me. It must be obvious that different constitutions require variation of treatment. I have laid down broadly my views and experience as to the best way of rapidly reducing healthy obese patients. By rapid reduction I obtain a long course of immunity from any increase in the future.

I have sent my diet-cards, at the written request of medical practitioners, to all parts of the country and the Colonies, and I have received on all sides most encouraging reports from these gentlemen. I am fully satisfied any obese patient can be safely reduced and in all respects improved in health.

THE TITLE OF "DR."

GENERAL PRACTITIONER suggests that all should be allowed to adopt the prefix of Dr., on condition that they agreed to an affix, explaining to the public the special line of practice each Dr. devoted himself to. Thus, we might have Dr. A., Obstetric Physician; Dr. B., Aural Surgeon; Dr. C., Consulting Physician; Dr. D., General Practitioner; Dr. E., Surgeon, etc.

COMMON SENSE thinks that there is a great want of a doctorate in Medicine, to be obtained by sheer hard work, irrespective of age or residence. Until this want is supplied at home the more ambitious men will continue to go abroad for it.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:

Dr. Airlidge, Stoke-on-Trent; M.D. Retired; Mr. J. Furley, London; Dr. Lewers, London; Mr. J. Black, London; Mr. T. M. Watt, Hovingham; Surgeon-Major H. Comerford, London; Dr. E. P. Brewer, Norwich, Conn.; Dr. R. H. Bakewell, Auckland, N.Z.; Mr. E. M. Anderson, London; Mr. T. H. Hill, Oxford; Mr. S. Plowman, London; Dr. J. Holmes, Radcliffe; Messrs. Boyd and Co., Belfast; Mr. S. J. Hutchinson, London; Mr. Adams Frost, London; Mr. W. W. Wagstaffe, Sevenoaks; Mr. Lockwood, London; Dr. E. Little, Wimbledon; Miss G. Wright, Edinburgh; Dr. R. Rentoul, Liverpool; Dr. G. F. Inglott, Malta; The Secretary of the National Health Society, London; Mr. F. Deuticke, Wien; Mr. W. T. Freeman, Pangbourne; Dr. C. A. MacMunn, Wolverhampton; Dr. G. W. Crowe, Worcester; Dr. P. Boobyer, Nottingham; The Secretary of the Hospital for Consumption, Brompton; Mr. W. W. Baxter, Swansea Valley; Mr. Arthur Cooper, London; Dr. C. McBride, Wigtown; Our Australian Correspondent, Melbourne; Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Mr. A. Miller, Crosshill; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Retired Pay; Mr. R. J. Collins, Dulverton; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Mr. E. Turnbull, Ross; Dr. C. N. Lees, London; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Mr. F. Simms, London; Dr. J. Fletcher Little, London; Dr. T. W. Trend, Southampton; Mr. Henry Williams, London; Mr. F. B. Fisher, Dorchester; Brigade-Surgeon; Dr. F. H. Spencer, Bournemouth; The Honorary Secretary of the Association of Sanitary Inspectors, London; Dr. W. F. Haslam, Birmingham; Dr. Russell, Glasgow; Mr. G. M. Dartnell, Salop; Dr. Robert Barnes, London; Mr. F. Boehm, London; Mr. R. Bremridge, London; The Secretary of the Sanitary Institute, London; Mr. G. Sydenham, Dulverton; Dr. M. Skerritt, Bristol; Dr. Willoughby, London; Mr. J. W. Planton, Kingstown, Jamaica; The Under-Secretary of State, London; Dr. P. Kidd, London; Dr. J. Davy, Halifax; A. W. Hare, M.B., Salford; Mr. G. W. Isaac, London; Dr. F. Imlach, Liverpool; Mr. A. Duncan, London; Mr. S. Johnson, London; Mr. W. Buchanan, Chatham; The Editor of the *Journal of the Pharmaceutical Society*, London; Mr. C. M. Jessop, London; Tell; Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., London; The Secretary of the Glasgow University Club, London; Dr. Myers, London; Dr. Raiton, Manchester; Mr. T. F. Gardner, Bournemouth; Mr. G. A. Rae,

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- A Surgical Handbook for the use of Students, Practitioners, House-Surgeons, and Dressers. By Francis M. Caird, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., and Charles W. Cathcart, M.B., F.R.C.S.Eng.&Ed. With very numerous illustrations. London: C. Griffin and Co. 1889.
- A Guide to the Selection and Adoption of Orthopædic Apparatus. By F. Gustav Ernst. London: Sprague and Co. 1889.
- The Cerebral Palsies of Children. By William Osler, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1889.
- Illustrations of Zoology: Invertebrates and Vertebrates. By William Ramsay Smith, B.Sc., and J. Stewart Norwell. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1889.
- Diseases of the Eye. By George A. Berry, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1889.
- A Treatise on the Science and Practice of Midwifery. By W. S. Playfair, M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P. In two volumes. Vols. I and II. Seventh Edition. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1889.
- Electro-Therapeutics or Electricity in its relation to Medicine and Surgery. By William Harvey King, M.D. New York: A. D. Chatterton and Co.
- The Perineum. By Henry O. Marcy, A.M., M.D., LL.D. Philadelphia: W. J. Dornan.
- Transactions of the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Vol. I for the year 1888. Philadelphia: W. J. Dornan.

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