

ERGOT IN LINGERING LABOUR.

DR. WILLIAM H. DAY (Norwich) writes: It is gratifying to find a man of Dr. More Madden's reputation and experience giving so confident an opinion as to the value of ergot in lingering labour, and to its harmlessness when administered with judgment. Neither Dr. Madden or any skilled obstetrician advises its use in obstructed labour; but where there is a roomy pelvis, a dilatable os, and simple inertia, I agree with him that ergot is an invaluable aid to the completion of labour, and in these cases its action is too active to be foeticidal. But its value, according to my experience, is still greater in those cases where heavy *post-partum* hemorrhage is habitual; over and again have I given it when I have had previous experience of this serious tendency, and been gratified by most successful results.

If consultants who compile textbooks had to undergo the tedious experiences of country practitioners, I think they would be tempted to give ergot a fair trial, and would probably find their opinion of its value considerably modified. I believe there is no preparation equal to the simple infusion, which will keep good for many days by the addition of a little chloric ether.

"PLUMBER AND PLUMBISM."

DR. C. E. GREY STALKART (Southsea) writes: My night bell rang alarmingly loud about 2 A.M. Starting out of a sound sleep, and inquiring through the speaking tube the reason thereof, and anticipating a summons to some urgent case, the following answer reached my ear: "Oh! doctor, doctor! my sister's burst. Will you come quickly?" "To what address?" asked I. "At General Nemo's, Lady Grove." Replying, "I'll be there as soon as possible," straightway I hasten to perform a scanty toilet; but ere time elapses sufficient to step into unmentionables, a furious ring reminds me of impatient anxiety at the delay. Rushing to the speaking tube, I hear, "Doctor, come quickly!" and answer, "Am coming; go on ahead." With but a decent toilet arranged, I hasten downstairs. Seizing hat and pocket case, as the thought arises, "What manner of case is this, and what shall I take with me," I hurry to the rescue, trusting to be yet in time to save the unfortunate one from the perils of a "burst" (whatever that may be). On reaching the door, husband and wife and servants are there to greet me with scared countenances, but my attention is arrested by observing a flood of water on all sides, water dripping rapidly through the roof of the entrance hall, and water running down the staircase. The silence is broken by, "Oh! doctor, I am sure you can stop this." Then a feeling of intense relief arises as it slowly dawns on the mind that "my sister's burst" is "my cistern's burst;" and a sensation akin to being April-fooled reigns but for a moment, when the answer given, "This is not quite in my line," brings forth the indignant retort, "Then you ought to know," and forces me to acquit my midnight disturbers of levity of conduct, and to acknowledge their genuineness of purpose in attributing to the doctor an infinite capability.

Oh! ye rising generation of "medicals," see that ye confine not your energies to studying "plumbism," but learn that henceforth it behoves you to make yourselves competent as plumbers! for ye know not the hour nor the day (let alone the night) when your talents may be called into requisition.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- Epidemics: their Origin and Prevention. By J. Foster Palmer, L.R.C.P. London: Cousins and Co. 1890.
- The Secret of the Old House. By Evelyn Everett-Green. London: Blackie and Son. 1890.
- A Rash Promise. By Cecilia Selby Lowndes. London: Blackie and Son. 1891.
- By England's Aid; or the Freeing of the Netherlands. By G. A. Henty. London: Blackie and Son. 1891.
- A Chapter of Adventures. By G. A. Henty. London: Blackie and Son. 1890.
- A Rough Shaking. By George Macdonald. London: Blackie and Son. 1890.
- Twist School and College. By Gordon Stables, C.M., M.D., R.N. London: Blackie and Son. 1890.
- A Handbook of the Diseases of the Eye, and Their Treatment. By Henry R. Swanzy, A.M., M.B. Third edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890.
- Proceedings of the Staffordshire Branch of the British Medical Association 1874 to 1890. Stoke-upon-Trent: J. G. Fenn. 1890.
- Golden Bullets; a Story in the Days of Akbar and Elizabeth. By W. W. Ireland, M.D. Edinburgh: Bell and Bradfute. 1890.
- The Dignity of Woman's Health, and the Nemesis of its Neglect. By Robert Reid Rentoul, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1890.
- Transactions of the Association of American Physicians. Vol. V. Philadelphia: Published by the Association. 1890.
- The Bath Thermal Waters and Treatment. By T. Pagan Lowe, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Ed. With Historical Notes by Herbert Bentley Freeman, M.A. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1890.
- Stammering: its Treatment. By B. Beasley. Twelfth edition. Birmingham: Hudson and Son. 1890.
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