

The treatment of post-partum hæmorrhage was to apply pressure to the lower part of the sacrum and to close by compression the vulval orifice. Kagiva realised the urgency of the complication, and prays his pupil to use "all diligence, to throw down his fork, his 'hashi,' and run to the bedside." In the "San Ron Yoku" is described 'a rather curious instrument used at this period. It resembled a whalebone sling, by means of which a cord could be passed over parts of the fœtus to aid delivery. Its use was forbidden at Court owing to the frequent injuries to mother and child which resulted from it.

The grandson of Kagiva invented a kind of cloth forceps. This was a wide strip of silk or linen attached to and rolled upon two long slender rods in scroll fashion. These were introduced into the uterus, unrolled above the head; the sticks were removed; the ends of the cloth were drawn through a hole in a vectis-like stick of whalebone, and traction was made, often with great success. Many people objected to its use, so strategic means were counselled. The operator was advised to carry it in his capacious, flowing sleeves (this serving to warm the instruments, the writer quaintly observes), then to apply it beneath the sheet, the patient lying on her back with legs extended. The writer adds that once the operation is over the friends may be left in ignorance that instruments have been used. One wonders, after all, if East and West are so diverse! Then as now the Japanese children took the breast up to two or three years of age; they apparently thrive upon it. With regard to midwifery in Japan to-day, it differs little from that of the West. The students, however, ever read with reverence and fascination the pioneer book of the wise man, Kagiva Genyetsu.

M. O. H.

The next examination of the Central Midwives' Board, which will be held in London only, takes place on April 22nd at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C. The oral examination follows a few days later.

The last day for returning forms of application for the scholarships in midwifery, to be awarded by the London County Council in July, is Saturday, April 18th. They must be sent to the Executive Officer, Education Offices, Victoria Embankment, W.C.

The full "List of Classes for the further instruction of Midwives and Maternity Nurses," for the Session terminating in July next, given under the auspices of the London County Council, is now published at the Education offices.

MIDWIVES UNDER THE SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL.

An interesting report has been issued under the authority of the Midwives' Act Committee of the Somerset County Council, drawn up by Miss C. C. du Sautoy, Inspector of Midwives under the Council. It shows that the number of midwives who notified their intention to practise in the county during the year was:—Trained 81, *bonâ fide* 125. Of the trained midwives 31 had had no general training in nursing, 25 had had one year's training, including midwifery, 19 had had two or three years' general training, and 6, i.e., the Queen's nurses, had had three years' general training and six months' district training also.

Of the 125 *bonâ-fide* midwives, analysis shows that during the year six were suspended, 72 are reported as unsatisfactory, three have given up practice, four have died, and 40 are fairly satisfactory.

Miss Du Sautoy estimates that nearly 50 per cent. of the total births in the county were attended by midwives in 1907. It is interesting to note that the *bonâ-fide* midwife will seldom stay in the house, but generally visits more or less regularly for about 10 days, therefore, the patient engages a "nurse" to "do for" husband, children, and house.

CARE OF THE NEW BORN.

Dr. De Witt H. Sherman in a paper in *The New York Medical Journal* speaks of some often neglected precautions during the first week of infant life. He emphasises the importance of warmth as refrigeration produces a shock, which is momentous to the newly born. The temperature should be taken by rectum and kept above 98 degs. Fahr.

Pain sometimes arises from the fact that too little water is given. Post-mortem examination has sometimes shown orange or light-red colour in the kidneys near the pyramids, usually due to the ammonium urate, amorphous urates, or uric acid crystals. They are easily washed away with water, especially if it contains an alkali. This simple remedy often relieves pain too commonly treated by castor oil. He gives as a routine treatment a little weak sodium bicarbonate water during the first two days of life. He considers the rougher methods of artificial respiration as one cause of physical depression, and recommends Byrd's method. The infant lies with its back on the palm of the hand, two fingers supporting its head. The thumb presses one side the chest, the fourth and little fingers the other. The other hand grasps the legs and bends the thighs on the abdomen. As they compress it the chest also can be compressed. As the thighs are extended and the body arched backwards the chest can be released. It can be performed in a warm bath if necessary. He considers the best dressing for the cord a dry sterile gauze, or linen, so applied as to prevent contamination. Dr. Gallant recommends Balsam of Peru one part to castor oil sixteen parts, both sterile, applied to the base with a thick dressing of sterile gauze for the cord, the whole held to the abdomen by adhesive straps and changed when soiled, or every third or fourth day under aseptic precautions.

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