

The Midwife.

AORTA COMPRESSION APPARATUS.

A new apparatus for instrumental compression of the aorta abdominalis, suitable especially for hospitals in obstetrical work, has been designed by Professor Gauss of the University Hospital, Freiburg, and is shown in *The Modern Hospital*, from which we reproduce it. This apparatus is to take the place of Momburg's rubber tubes and other bandages of similar nature. It is considered by some authorities that the instrumental compression of the aorta abdominalis affords a safe and effective method of stopping hemorrhage after childbirth, in contrast to the Momburg method of employing a rubber tube, which involves complete binding of the lower part of the body.

The application of this apparatus is confined to an isolated compression of the aorta abdominalis immediately above its division into the two iliac communes. This type of compression is further considered preferable to the Momburg method in view of the delicate and consequently protective regulation of pressure which can be produced. It is stated that injury to the heart, intestines, and bladder are practically impossible. The apparatus should therefore prove of considerable value.

ANTE-NATAL TREATMENT.

Dr. Amand Routh, in a letter in the professional press draws attention to the scheme of the Local Government Board as regards Maternity and Child Welfare, to which we have already alluded in this journal under which arrangements are to be made for: "(1) efficient ante-natal advice and treatment by ante-natal clinics, home visiting, and pre-maternity beds or wards; (2) for skilled attendance upon women during their confinements, and expert hospital treatment for parturient

women with contracted pelves and other abnormalities or diseases; and (3) for treatment of mother and child after parturition, and subsequent systematic advice and treatment for infants and older children, at suitable clinics or dispensaries, and by home visiting."

In connection with the grants in aid to be made by the Local Government Board and the Board of Education, Dr. Routh sees no reason why a hospital should not apply for a grant in aid of the expenses involved in the formation or extension of a definite ante-natal clinic and laboratory with pre-maternity beds.

"Pregnant women in the general wards or in other out-patient departments of the hospital, with varied medical or surgical complications, could be notified to or transferred to the ante-natal clinic, and a great mass of useful knowledge thus obtained."



GAUSS AORTA COMPRESS.

THE TRAINING OF SICK ROOM HELPS.

The training of Sick Room Helps, to take the place of the sick mother in the home, is a scheme which is being promoted by the Central Com-

mittee on Women's Employment, in connection with the Queen's "Work for Women" Fund. As an initial experiment, twenty-five unemployed women are to be trained immediately in the duties of Sick Room Help by the Plaistow Maternity Charity. These women will do the house-work and the family washing, and look after the children. They will arrive at the home in time to make the breakfast, get the children ready for school, and remain till they have been put to bed. Women accustomed to domestic work will be chosen for training, and placed in the homes by a Supervisor. They will be under the direction of a trained nurse. If the experiment proves successful, it will be extended to other districts. The scheme appears a practical and useful one.

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