

haste as to jeopardise, and even to my knowledge more than once sacrifice, the infant's life through such crass ignorance.

With regard to placing the ligatures, the one nearest the umbilicus should be about three inches from it, the second about the same distance beyond the first. Before cutting the cord, place the corner of a napkin *under it*, then fix your scissors, and cover them and the cord over with the napkin *before severing*; this last receives the blood that flows from the cut ends of the funis, and saves mess from its spurting about. There is a clinical point to which I must now direct your attention, and for this purpose we will fix, but not *secure*, the ligatures, and sever the cord. Now what do we observe? A rapid stream of arterial blood jetting forth from both the cut ends of the umbilical vein, with all the characteristics of a severed artery, but how widely different are the *consequences* that arise from the hæmorrhage from either end of the cord. In the umbilical portion, if unchecked, it would prove speedily and inevitably fatal to the infant's life. From the placental end it is of no consequence at all, and has not the slightest influence upon the maternal system. In the one case, the integrity of the ligature is of *vital* importance, in the other not; it is absolutely unnecessary, though as a matter of cleanliness it may be expedient. In my own practice I disregard the placental ligature, and share the opinion of many eminent Obstetricians, that allowing the blood to flow from the placenta aids its detachment. A professional friend of mine urged against this procedure that in cases of twin labour, where the placentæ are more often anastomosed than distinct, that if we were to leave the placental end of the funis free, the hæmorrhage therefrom might prove disastrous to the second infant. Without quite sharing his opinions, I have so far deferred to them as to ascertain if my patient was to be "thrice blest" before freeing the placental ligature. (To be continued.)

### NURSING ECHOES.

I AM asked to state in this column that the ordinary quarterly meeting of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association will be held on Friday, April 10, 1891, at five p.m., at 20, Hanover Square, when the agenda will be (1) to receive reports from the Executive Committee; (2) to consider further

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conditions of membership. Apparently, therefore, the Association is going to take no notice of the opposition to which it is now being subjected—a course which, I venture to think, many of its best friends will consider a great mistake under the circumstances.

I HEAR that H.R.H. Princess Christian attended the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, held at the offices on Friday, the 3rd inst., and that the marriage of Prince Aribert of Anhalt and Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, her Royal Highness's second daughter, will take place on Monday, July 6, in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The Duke and Duchess of Anhalt and Prince Aribert are expected to arrive at Windsor on Thursday, July 2, and the German Emperor and Empress on Saturday, July 4. An address will be presented by the Corporation of the Royal borough to their Imperial Majesties, who are expected to attend the Royal wedding. It is understood that the silver wedding of Prince and Princess Christian will be celebrated on July 8.

THE Marchioness of Dufferin has announced her intention of addressing a public meeting in the Sheldonian Theatre, in May, to give an account of the work effected by the Dufferin Fund in India.

LADY LANSDOWNE on March 21, at Calcutta, performed the double function of opening the local Dufferin Zenana Hospital and unveiling Lady Dufferin's bust, which has been erected at the entrance to the Hospital. The honorary secretary of the Bengal branch of the Dufferin Association read a report relating the history of the Hospital scheme, and called attention to the offer of 15,000Rs. by the Lieut.-Governor, who subsequently requested Lady Lansdowne to declare the Hospital open. Her Excellency having complied with the request, proceeded to unveil Lady Dufferin's bust. The Hon. M. Mackay, as chairman of the Dufferin Fund, which presented the bust to the Hospital, in asking her ladyship to perform the unveiling ceremony, paid a merited compliment to Lady Dufferin. The bust was unveiled amidst enthusiastic applause.

THE inquiry is still continuing into the administration of the Fever Hospital at Homerton, and several of the Nurses have been heard for the

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