

It will be noted that while the death-rate in ante-partum eclampsia was increased, there was no mortality amongst the cases which started after delivery. I regret to see that *accouchement force* is still sometimes practised. There are two standard methods of carrying out the conservative treatment of eclampsia—Stronganoff's method and Tweedy's, or the Dublin, method. Both methods have been thoroughly tested, and have given excellent results in large numbers of cases. I think it would tend to improve the treatment of eclampsia in this country, and its results, if practitioners would familiarize themselves with one or other method, and adopt it consistently in preference to the somewhat heterogeneous mixture of methods which is at present popular.

THE USE OF THE MIDWIFERY FORCEPS.

The tendency to abuse the midwifery forceps, though confined to an ever-lessening number of maternity hospitals, is still sufficient to need careful watching. It is difficult to understand the mentality of the practitioner who adheres to methods which have been criticized and condemned in every obstetrical school in the world. Such people are impervious to suggestion, and I am afraid that, before we shall get away from the harm they do, a new generation must rise.

The following figures taken from the monthly returns of maternity hospitals show how practice differs in different places :—

Table "B."

Hospital.	Number of Full-term Labours.	Percentage of Forceps Application.
St. Helens Hospitals .. .. .	2,333	4.37
Whangarei Public Hospital .. .. .	172	1.74
Stratford Public Hospital .. .. .	145	5.52
Palmerston North Public Hospital .. .. .	175	1.14
Private Hospital, Auckland .. .. .	103	1.94
Private Hospital, Auckland .. .. .	91	5.49
Private Hospital, Wellington .. .. .	155	2.58
Private Hospital, Wellington .. .. .	63	4.76
Private Hospital, Canterbury .. .. .	112	5.36
Private Hospital, Canterbury .. .. .	77	3.90
Timaru Public Hospital .. .. .	103	0.97
Public Hospital, Inangahua .. .. .	19	57.89
Public Hospital, Westport .. .. .	65	30.77
Public Hospital, Rangiora .. .. .	100	30.0
Private Hospital, Auckland District .. .. .	19	47.06
Private Hospital, Auckland District .. .. .	30	37.04
Private Hospital, Auckland District .. .. .	14	46.15
Private Hospital, Wellington District .. .. .	15	40.00
Private Hospital, Wellington .. .. .	27	37.04
Private Hospital, Wellington .. .. .	151	36.42
Private Hospital, Canterbury .. .. .	22	36.36

These figures represent the extremes. On the whole, the position is improving, and we can, I think, look forward to a time when all practitioners will realize that the proportion of women who cannot deliver themselves safely and satisfactorily is very small.

The following table shows the position for the last three years as regards the country at large :—

Table "C."

Hospitals of	Number of Full-term Labours.			Percentage of Forceps Deliveries.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
50 confinements and under ..	3,794	3,907	3,829	15.06	12.33	11.07
From 51-100 .. .. .	5,589	5,162	4,880	12.63	11.43	10.7
From 101-150 .. .. .	3,044	2,566	2,593	16.29	12.7	8.83
Over 150 .. .. .	4,229	4,858	5,680	7.35	8.13	8.06
Dominion totals ..	16,656	16,493	16,982	12.51	10.87	9.6