

1028/85/3

Jan 1889 ^{W.V.F.}

(Montreal Med. J., 1888-89, xvii, 557-58.)

Local Notes & Comments (Theilke of the series was not recorded in the Bulletin 4th, 1932)

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For the following, I blame that case of railroad delivery which has evidently given me a most fictitious reputation. A few days ago I received an urgent summons to come at once to an address at the northern part of the town. On arrival I found my confère looking very tired and distressed after an anxious night with a primipara. He greeted me with the information that one child had been born but that he did not know what to do about the second, as he believed there was hour-glass contraction of the uterus. I assured him that our course of action was clear; we sent at once for an obstetrician. I had difficulty in convincing him that I was not professor of the art, but he persisted that my reputation was associated in some way with obstetrics, and brought up that north-west case! What I have suffered on account of that baby! To be jeered at by the French Journals, to be called by the editor of the Medical Record a narrator of funny stories, to be referred to by my friends as Munchausen - these things have been hard to bear, but on the strength of that case to develop a consulting practice in obstetrics, is indeed a warning. Hereafter I shall stick to my last.

William Osler

This would be the "Principles" of the "after-dinner speech" referred to by Catell in "International Clinics", ser. 40, vol. 3, pp. 290-6.

W.V.F. 1951.

Copies sent to Rucker & Farnham, both of whom are writing a book on Obstetrics.