

gians. It is a thriving little city and gives promise of being a place of considerable importance.

At Tampa we found another old town. For a long time it has been at a standstill, but for the past four years, since the completion of the South Florida Railroad, it has been growing, and now the new part of the city is as handsome as almost any place we saw. Here are to be found many fine orange groves.

Florida promises very little to doctors, judging by the number we find. In Georgia will be found in almost every place of three or four hundred people from two to four doctors. Such is not the case in most parts of Florida visited by your correspondent. There are fewer doctors here than anywhere we have been. The inhabitants say it is so healthy here that physicians cannot make a living. Whether this is true or not, I will not pretend to say. I know it is not true of the cities. The cities here, like the cities in Georgia, are abundantly supplied with doctors.

G.

Tampa, Fla., April 3, 1887.

SEPARATION OF THE SYMPHYSIS PUBIS DURING PARTURITION.

Editors Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal:

In the February number of the *Archives of Gynecology*, the subject of the separation of the symphysis pubis during parturition is once more brought prominently forward. I imagine that such cases are quite rare, having had personal knowledge of but one such in forty years. This one was clearly attributable to violent extractive force in the hands of an old, presumptuous, female accoucheur; yet she boasted of having attended 3,000 women in confinement.

If ever I had to witness scenes of consternation, woe and the "gush of human tears," it has been when I was hastily summoned to assist in and "share the responsibility" of the case of a

poor creature in travail (shoulder and arm presentation, perhaps), whose systemic powers were completely exhausted by long and fruitless efforts at bearing down, exhorted so to do, and mashed and tugged at by her stupid murderer, who was utterly ignorant of the fact that she was thereby fearfully increasing the danger and the difficulties of deliverance.

Far be it from me to discountenance the practice of obstetrics by intelligent and trained women. Indeed, I think it should be the prerogative of such to serve in this capacity; but the misfortune is that many upstarts set out on this line who do not know their a, b, c's—overly zealous, without knowledge, and whose experience consists only in having blindly fumbled about in a case or so of natural labor. But I rejoice that, in this regard, a better day is dawning upon the human family. It is now seldom that a case of labor occurs without the presence of a physician, excepting among the most ignorant whites or voo-doo Negroes. Thus the mortality of childbirth, as well as the entailment of life-long suffering upon mothers, has notably diminished.

Magnolia, S. C., March, 1887. J. M. SANDERS, M. D.