"One Dr. Eastman."

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Jan. 6, 1898.

To the Editor:—In the issue of the JOURNAL for December 25, Dr. M. Price of Philadelphia, discussing extra-uterine pregnancy, observes: "My case at term, reported some five years ago, was in the tenth month of gestation and in the amniotic sac. The mother and child are today both living and well, the child a beautiful little girl. This case is reported in 'Greig Smith's system of Abdominal Surgery' as operated by one Dr. Eastman. No one of the name is known to belong to the profession of Philadelphia. This goes to illustrate the worthless character of the statistics of even eminent authority. This case is stated by Smith to be the only one in America where mother and child both lived." At the outset we will disclaim any intention to champion the accuracy of Greig Smith's statistics, since indeed a typographic error in the volume referred to made it appear that "Eastman of Philadelphia" (instead of Eastman of Indianapolis) had operated in tubal pregnancy, saving mother and child. But because of this single error, shall Dr. M. Price conclude recklessly, "my operation has been credited to one Dr. Eastman?" We think not. In the statistic assailed the words "Eastman of Philadelphia," were marked by an obelisk which it was intended should refer attention to a foot-note at the bottom of the page, giving the *American Journal of Obstetrics* of October, 1888, as the source of the operation of "one Eastman." It is passing strange that Dr. M. Price did not remark this date, 1888. Why did he not take up his *American Journal of Obstetrics* and learn to whom Greig Smith alluded? Dr. Price says, "my case was reported some five years ago." According to his own statement, therefore, not earlier than 1892. The case of Dr. Joseph Eastman of Indianapolis, is recounted in nearly all of the standard text-books dealing with such matter, which have appeared since July 10, 1887, the date of his operation (Playfair, Greig Smith, Pozzi, Keating and Coe, etc.), and has been discussed in French, German and English magazines. In all instances except one (Greig Smith's work) this particular operation has been ascribed to Dr. Joseph Eastman of Indianapolis. Dr. Price in including the case among his own, indeed "illustrates the worthless character of the statistics of even eminent authority." Many of the works (notably that of Greig Smith, 1889) and magazine articles referred to were published several years before the confessed date of Dr. Price's operation.

We assume, with no thought to commentate concerning the scope of Dr. Price's reading, that none of these have come to his notice. It remains to be added that the method employed in the two operations controverted was essentially different. Dr. Price left the amniotic sac stitched to the wound and placenta *in situ*; whereas Dr. Eastman removed the entire sac, clamped the uterine end of the tube and the broad ligament, cut away the portion which contained the ovum and quilted the stump with iron-dyed silk.

JOSEPH RILUS EASTMAN, M.D.

License in Germany; American and European Medical Colleges.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 10, 1898.

To the Editor:—I am again forced to reply to Dr. Becker of Toledo, and this time on a different subject. I must therefore apologize for using two headings for this communication.

As far as the laws regulating the practice of medicine in Germany are concerned, I am done and shall waste no more time with them.

But Dr. Becker accuses me of underrating the value of American medical colleges, particularly of Johns Hopkins or Harvard. Now any careful reader, familiar with the most rudimentary principles of English composition, will see that I

never expressed my opinion, but that I was stating what legal value the diplomas of an American medical school has before the German licensing board in Germany.

My opinion puts Johns Hopkins and Harvard even above the average German university. To me Osler is second to none, and Kelly far outshines, as a surgeon, men of even the caliber of a Bergmann, which gentleman, for instance, although one of the German surgeons, has won for himself the distinction of carefully neglecting asepsis.

And now to the address of Dr. Becker a few well-meant advices: 1. "Polk's Directory" is a poor weapon to fight with, as it is not a scientific publication. 2. It is not considered good journalism to indulge in personalities. Stick to the subject in consideration, Doctor, and do not argue about a man's shoes and clothing, or his nose; babies only argue in this way. 3. Barnes Medical College is an excellent institution, and has men on the faculty who are far more able to teach than many professors in Zurich. So, for instance, Charles H. Hughes is well known throughout this country and Europe as an authority in neurology, Pinckney French as a most successful scientific and aseptic surgeon, Carpenter as a clinical lecturer of whom it has been justly said, "he is a clinical lecturer even if without clinical material."

Perhaps Dr. Becker will be surprised to learn that his diploma from Zurich is absolutely valueless in several States of the Union, as Kentucky, Tennessee, and that in order to practice medicine there he would have first to produce an American diploma. If he ever wished to move there, I would earnestly advise him to enter the graduating class of Barnes Medical College. I believe the faculty of that institution would give him three years credit for his diploma, and I am satisfied that he could yet learn something in that successful college, which in its six years existence had to abandon quarters for more spacious ones, larger than those assigned to the medical department of the University of Zurich.

G. A. BLECH, M.D.

A Simple Method of Preventing the Clouding of Mirrors.

MILWAUKEE, WIS., 1897.

To the Editor:—The *Medical Press and Circular* recently called attention to an ingenious, effective, and at the same time very simple device for preventing the clouding of mirrors used in the work of laryngologists and dentists.

The method was introduced by George Wallis, L. D. S., dental surgeon to the London Throat and Ear Hospital at a recent meeting of the staff.

It consists merely of smearing a thin layer of ordinary soap, soft but not moist, over the surface of the mirror, and afterward polishing the latter with a dry cloth. The effect of this procedure is that however much the mirror may be breathed upon, its reflecting surface remains perfectly clear and bright. When one takes into consideration the extreme simplicity of the procedure and the bothersome difficulties sometimes encountered in preventing the clouding of mirrors used in laryngology and dentistry, the value of this ready method can not be overestimated. It has proved very satisfactory to me, and as I have not yet seen it mentioned in the American journals, I take this opportunity of calling the attention of the profession to it.

Yours very truly,

GILBERT E. SEAMAN, M.D.

Birth Mark?

WAUKEGAN, ILL., Jan. 6, 1898.

To the Editor:—J. F. M. is 13 years old, and is usually in good health. He is myopic and his eyes are elongated antero-posteriorly. The pupils are exactly alike, ellipto-oval in shape, the pointed portion of the pupil being downward like a