

This patient is the mother of four healthy children. She states her labours have been always very tedious, doubtless arising from obstruction caused by the abnormal position of the rectum.

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*On the Preparation of Chloride of Zinc in Cylinders.* By M. SOMMIÉ.

THE cylindrical form for certain topical applications is coming into more general use. We have the white and black nitrates of silver, caustic potash, and sulphate of copper. M. Sommié recommends the preparation of cylinders of chloride of zinc by the following method:—

Soften gutta percha in boiling alcohol, and incorporate it in a heated porcelain mortar with an equal weight of chloride of zinc in a state of fine division. Roll the mass rapidly on a marble slab, after the manner adopted in the manufacture of pastiles. The cylinder having been reduced to the diameter of a quill, is divided into several lengths, and each fragment is tapered at its extremities. The pencils must be kept in wide-mouthed bottles, surrounded with powdered lime.

These pencils remain solid, of uniform causticity, and are easily manipulated. They act like a sponge, slowly exuding chloride of zinc, and liquify when in contact with the air or the skin.

For Canquoin's paste or chloride of zinc in slabs, gluten is preferable to flour as an excipient; it is more elastic and less hygrometric.—*Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique*, 15 June, 1860, p. 499.