

eclampsia being unsatisfactory. In thinking over this deportation theory and trying to fit it to the cases which had come under his notice, there had been two just similar cases; and it seemed to him that a possible explanation lay in the fact that when a poisonous organism attacked a system it was probably the weakest part that suffered first. Hence, where the kidneys were not up to the standard they would be the first to suffer, while in other cases it might be the liver. With regard to the application of the theory to the occurrence of convulsions, this was explained by the uterine contractions loosening, as it were, the attachments of the villi and thus pouring out a fresh quantity of these cells into the circulation, a quantity sufficient to overcome all the immunizing influence of the body at the time.

With regard to treatment Strogonoff of St. Petersburg, had probably obtained the most extraordinary results. He claimed that the condition was an infectious disease, and treated the cases with absolute rest, administration of oxygen, free ventilation of the room, and sedatives in sufficient quantities to quiet the patient, never allowing her to be handled or touched except under anæsthetic. Thus he got the uterus quieted down as quickly possible and the poison thrown into the circulation had time to be eliminated.

With regard to the favourable effects of pregnancy, Veit had only mentioned this in a very casual way, but the speaker thought all had come across women in very poor health who had improved during pregnancy, the improvement sometimes being lasting.

Dr. Evans was unable to answer with regard to eclampsia in animals. The iron pigment had been found in the skin in those cases in which there was hæmoglobinæmia, but he did not know whether it was also present in the organs.

Dr. MILLS stated that he had not himself seen those cases which resemble eclampsia in animals, but they were well known in the literature of comparative medicine, and he had heard veterinary surgeons report them. They occurred in animals that had seemed to be in unusual vigour up to the time of parturition, and in bitches at least, where convulsions occurred after parturition, it was noted that they had been usually overfed. He thought it would be of advantage if one went back and took up some of the theories that had been cast aside, such as the nervous and blood pressure, and worked them out.