

now employed and laudanum given for the diarrhoea. The child was born on the 29th, the vagina being douched with carbolic lotion after expulsion of the placenta, and catgut sutures applied to the perineal and vestibular tears. The puerperium was briefly as follows: August 29th (afternoon)—Six fluid motions, salivation, scanty urine. 30th—Gums spongy; grayish-white spots below the tongue; throat congested; urine scanty and albuminous, with hyaline and granular casts; kidney and bladder epithelium, and broken-down red-blood corpuscles. The diarrhoea and scanty urine continued, tympanitis began on the 31st, and death from coma occurred on September 5th, eight days after the use of the sublimate. Post-mortem examination showed acute Bright's disease, dysentery, ulcerated stomatitis and pharyngitis, parenchymatous degeneration of the myocardium and liver, pneumonia, acute cystitis, and imperfect involution of the uterus.

Fleischmann discusses this case and comes to the conclusion that corrosive sublimate poisoning had occurred, the sublimate passing into the circulation through small lesions of the mucous membrane at the internal os. He believes with Thorn (Volkmann's *Samml.*, No. 250) that corrosive sublimate should never be used for vaginal or uterine douching, but only for the surfaces of the skin, and by a medical man. Carbolic acid should be employed as a substitute in the former instances.

At the British Gynæcological Society on the 10th of last November, Dr. Granville Bantock of London read a paper "*On Vaginismus*." Dr. Bantock limits the term to cases in which there is no inflammation, erosion or ulceration of the vulva or vagina, but a morbid condition of the uterine body or cervix, or a displacement, and that the spasm at the mouth of the vagina which renders coitus impossible and digital examination almost equally so, is a reflex spasm. Dr. Bantock reported six cases which were mostly cured by suitable treatment for the morbid uterine conditions present, and in addition in some, by forcible dilatation of the vaginal orifice and the use of Sims' vaginal rests. He concluded by saying that "while a minor degree of vaginismus is very common and passes away under the manipu-