

The intractable nature of these chronic cases and the ease with which an early case can be cured emphasizes the importance of early recognition of catarrh of the colon. Not only is early diagnosis necessary on these grounds, but also because, when not recognized and properly treated, catarrh of the colon, even in the less severe cases, is apt to cause very considerable suffering, both physical and mental, to those afflicted by it; and no small part of their suffering may sometimes be due to the fact that they have constant and annoying pain, while retaining every appearance of health, and consequently are considered to be hysterical and making much of a little. The deceptive character of the early symptoms renders the early recognition of this condition far from easy, because they suggest to both patient and doctor the presence of a gastric rather than of intestinal ailment.—*British Medical Journal*.

#### REFERENCES.

1. See a summary of Post-mortem Reports on Membranous Colitis, by Dr. Mannaberg of Vienna, Trans. Internat. Med. Congress, pp. 87-89, Paris, 1900.
2. Symptomatology and Diagnosis of Membranaceous Colitis, Trans. Internat. Med. Congress, Paris, 1900.
3. Dr. Mathieu, loc. cit., p. 101.
4. Boas, loc. cit., p. 95.
5. Loc. cit., p. 112.

### THE MATURATION OF OVA IN RELATION TO PUBERTY AND THE MENOPAUSE.

BY JENNIE G. DRENNAN, M.D., ST. THOMAS, ONT.

The theory is set forth by Beatson that on the removal of the ovaries a fatty degeneration, similar to the formation of milk in the mammary glands, occurs, and that this degeneration has an inhibitory effect on mammary cancerous growths, the fatty degenerated cells not offering a suitable soil for their development. In Australia the practice of removing the ovaries of cows is done in the interests of the calves. Here is recognized the fact that, after a certain length of time—the normal period of lactation—allotted by Nature for the nourishing of the calf by the cow, the secretion diminishes. May we not deduce from this the fact that her ovarian function is being again restored, whereby she may again discharge ova and be capable of another impregnation? Actively functioning ovaries must, then, have the effect of inhibiting fatty degeneration in the cells of the mammary glands. During the later months of pregnancy milk is formed in the mammary glands. This process is in all probability active during the whole nine months, but just reaches perfection at the termination of this period. Then, supposing that there is a diminution, if not a cessation, of the ovarian function (for now there is no need of the ovaries discharging