

DANGER OF INTRAUTERINE INJECTIONS OF IODINE.—Gördes (*Centralbl. f. Gynäk.*), in reference to Pletzer's recent case of death after intrauterine injection of liquor ferri sesquichlorati, publishes a case in which colicky pains and tetanic spasms followed injection of iodine. The patient was a robust, sterile, married woman, aged about 27. She was subject to chronic endometritis. The curette was used, and six days later slight hæmorrhage occurred. Twenty-six hours after the bleeding had ceased, Gördes injected tincture of iodine, with a view of stimulating the granulating endometrium. Severe pain set in at once, though only a few minims appear to have been injected. Ten minutes later Gördes was recalled. The patient's face was livid grey, the pulse 126, hardly perceptible, respiration heavy, and pain severe. A general feeling of stiffness troubled the patient. The thumbs were extended and abducted. The colicky pains were very severe. A subcutaneous injection of morphine at once relieved the symptoms. The spasm in the fingers, the general rigidity and the stiffness of the jaw were the first symptoms to pass away. Tightness of the chest lasted longer. On the next morning the urine contained albumen. The patient made a speedy recovery. Gördes believes that the tetanic symptoms were reflex results of the colic. He does not think that any iodine entered the blood through an open uterine vein. It is very important, he concludes, that all cases of evil results following intrauterine injections be published, in order that both prevention and treatment may become better understood than at present.—*The British Medical Journal*.

TREATMENT OF FRACTURED PATELLA.—M. Berger exhibited at the Société de Chirurgie de Paris (*Sem. Méd.*), a patient upon whom he had practised a new operation for the cure of fractured patella. The patient when first seen had a fracture of the patella into two fragments, the upper comprising four-fifths of the bone, and the lower one-fifth. He was then fitted with a plaster casing to the knee, and kept in bed with the limb raised for forty days. At the end of this time there was no union of the fragments, although they were in good position. The following operation was performed:—The opposing surface of the fragments were

freshened, and then a piece of silver wire was passed around the patella, by first passing it through the quadriceps extensor tendon at its insertion into the upper fragment, then along one side of the patella and through the upper part of the ligamentum patellæ, when it was fixed to the lower fragment, and thence to the starting point. The two fragments were thus approximated, and the two ends of the wire fixed together. The periosteum was sutured over the line of fracture, and the overlying soft tissues approximated with structures. A plaster was then applied, the results were very good, and the movements of the knee-joint were perfectly re-established.—*The British Medical Journal*.

LEUKÆMIA.—After referring to the unsatisfactory state of our knowledge in regard to the etiology of this disease, Pawlowsky (*Deut. med. Woch.*) says that its infective nature was first suspected some years ago. Bacteriological investigation has hitherto given unsatisfactory results. The author then cites a typical case where there was very considerable leucocytosis (1 to 4), and the spleen extended almost down to the pubes. No other glands were involved. Short bacilli with spores in them were discovered in the blood. In two other cases similar bacilli were found. They were also present in sections prepared from the organs of three patients dead of this disease, especially in the blood and lymphatic vessels of the liver. Cultivation experiments were successful in blood serum and glycerine agar. The organisms were also found in the blood of leeches which had abstracted blood from leukæmic patients, but they showed no aptitude to increase. The author says that characteristic microbes have thus been found by him in six cases, and that upon the ground of their constant presence in the blood and tissues and of their biological properties they must be looked upon as peculiar to leukæmia and in direct causal relation with this disease. These results show that leukæmia is a disease of the blood. The bacilli exercise a certain influence upon the leucocytes in the blood-forming organs. They bring about a multiplication of leucocytes, some of which latter get into the blood in an immature condition. The leucocytes also partly increase in the blood, and in