

COLD BATHING DURING MENSTRUATION.

Cold bathing during menstruation is a beneficial measure, provided women accustom themselves to the treatment by bathing every day for at least eight days before the arrival of the period, when they can continue during the menstrual flow without any danger. In the case of a very anæmic girl, in whom this treatment was instituted, it gave most satisfactory results. Houzel, before the recent Boulogne Congress, held that cold salt-water baths facilitate the menstrual flow, increase the duration of genital life, and likewise increase fecundity in a remarkable manner.—Dr. Depasse, in *Gazette de Gynæcologie*.

THE VAGINA AND PUERPURAL INFECTION.

Romme (*Archives de Gynéc. et de Tocologie*, February, 1896) agrees with the newest German school in deprecating routine injections and frequent exploration in normal labors. The results of simplicity have been very encouraging. Walthard had demonstrated, he says, the truth about the vagina and sepsis. The virulence of the vaginal streptococcus in a healthy pregnant subject not officiously treated by the obstetrician and midwife is equal to that of the streptococcus of other mucous membranes, such as the alimentary canal, which lives on normal secretions. In other words, it is not virulent at all, and acts as a saprophyte on healthy tissues. But when the resistance of the tissues is diminished in the vagina, as in the intestine, the streptococcus can act as a parasite, and be as virulent as the special germ, of the same genus, which causes puerperal fever. Hence routine injections are deleterious in normal labor where delivery has not involved true traumatism of the tissues. Digital exploration is to be avoided, as the vaginal streptococcus might be introduced into the previously aseptic but naturally lacerated tissues of the uterus. On the contrary, rigorous disinfection of the vagina is indicated whenever exploration or operative intervention has to be carried above the level of the os externum, and in all abnormal labors. It is also needed when the patient has an affection which diminishes the resistance of the tissues, such as nephritis, cardiac disease without compensatory hypertrophy, syphilis, diabetes, intercurrent infectious maladies, and anæmia.—*Brit. Med. Journal*.