

OXYGEN IN PUERPERAL ECLAMPSIA.—A. Bompiani reports, in the *Osservatore*, September 25th, 1887, two cases of eclampsia with albuminuria, occurring during pregnancy and during confinement, in both of which he employed oxygen. In the first case, which was proceeding to a fatal termination, he endeavored by the use of oxygen to obviate the asphyxia, which transiently developed, and was dependent upon the condition of the lung; while in the second case, which survived, oxygen was employed as a last resource, and effected the disappearance of the anasarca, as well as of the convulsions.

The first patient, was a young woman twenty-seven years old, who, at the end of pregnancy, was seized with convulsions, which occurred every fifteen minutes. Bromide of potash, chloral hydrate, leeches, warm vaginal douches, subcutaneous injections of morphine were without effect, and coma and asphyxia were strongly developed. Inhalations of oxygen produced slight improvement; the child was delivered by forceps; but the patient died after nine inhalations.

The second patient was a young woman at the end of pregnancy, who was seized with violent convulsions. A living child was delivered by the forceps; but, after delivery, fresh paroxysms developed, against which inhalations of oxygen and injections of ether were successfully employed.—*Deutsche Medizinisch-Zeitung*.

DURATION OF LIFE IN MODERATE DRINKERS.—The great insurance companies of Great Britain have, by their official action, pronounced the teetotalers longer lived than those who make even a moderate use of spirituous liquors. The companies in question have for a series of years kept separate registers of all their beneficiary members, the total abstainers being classed apart from the moderate drinkers. As a result of these records, they find the advantage in respect to longevity decidedly in favor of the teetotaler. One of the largest and oldest of these companies, which has kept separate registers for twenty years, declares that, among the strictly abstaining class, the real mortality has fallen short by thirty per cent. of the ordinary expectancy; while fully ninety-nine per cent. of moderate drinkers have attained this expectancy. Caine, a member of parliament, concludes, from a study of statistics, that the total abstainers have an average duration of life exceeding by six years that of moderate users of even the lighter beverages, such as wine and beer. There are now insurance companies and societies for mutual aid designed exclusively for total abstinence men; the taking of even an occasional glass of any intoxicant vitiates their policy.—*Med. and Surg. Rep.*

SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON PELVIC CELLULITIS.—Dr. Hardon concludes an article in the *Atlanta*

Med. and Surg. Jour. as follows:—My object in writing this paper is to submit the following propositions: 1. Acute pelvic cellulitis in the stage of infiltration may frequently be aborted by aspiration. 2. Chronic pelvic cellulitis rarely, if ever, exists except as a sequence of a previous acute pelvic cellulitis. 3. Hardness and tenderness in the broad ligaments, as a result of pelvic venous engorgement, are commonly mistaken for chronic pelvic cellulitis. 4. The treatment of such engorgement by raising the womb in the pelvis relieves the constitutional as well as the local symptoms, and places the patient in a suitable condition for a radical operation more speedily than the methods of treatment commonly in vogue.

HOW TO KEEP ICE FROM MELTING.—It is often a most important matter to be able to preserve ice from melting quickly in the sick room. Various devices have been suggested for this purpose; but the most efficient seems to be one proposed by Dr. Julius Stumphf, in the *Allg. Med. Central-Zeitung*. Dr. Stumphf recommends the use of chaff—barley chaff. He says that a piece of ice placed in a bag, and then in a box or basket containing enough barley chaff to surround it with a layer of five or six inches thick, will not lose 25 per cent. of its weight in five or six days, in a room, the temperature of which is between 70° and 80°. This suggests an excellent way to preserve various articles of food and drink, as well as ice itself.—*Med. and Surg. Rep.*

A NEW DANGER FROM OLD RAGS.—A writer in the *Lancet* calls attention to an unsuspected danger from old rags, cloth and rubbish. A lady, the head of a school, found a miscellaneous mass of such stuff in a number of bolsters and pillows that had been in use in the school. It seems that the practice of stuffing bedding with such material is very common. It is possible that this may account for some of the mysterious outbreaks of infectious diseases in schools and families.—*Jour. Am. Med. Assoc.*

POISONING WITH CHLORATE OF POTASH.—Dr. George T. Welch reports in the *Transactions of the Medical Society of New Jersey*, for 1887, a case of poisoning with chlorate of potash. The subject was a woman, 28 years old, who took at one draught four fluid ounces of a saturated solution of this salt. She had great prostration, straining, vomiting and frequent micturition. Her stomach was emptied with an emetic, and nerve stimulants and opium were administered. The next day she was quite recovered.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.