

QUARTERLY RETROSPECT OF OBSTETRICS.

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Medicinal Treatment of Abortion.—Dr. A. Cordes of Geneva (*Annales de Gynécologie et d'Obstétrique*) discusses the medicinal as opposed to the operative treatment of abortion, dwelling chiefly upon the action of *Viburnum* and *Quinine*. The one is a utero-sedative, the other a utero-excitant. In threatened abortion, when the ovular attachments are not too much broken up, he finds that rest in the horizontal position, vaginal injections of laudanum retained for some time, and viburnum internally, give the best chance of staving off the attack. Like Dr. Jenks, he finds viburnum specially useful in repeated abortion. In his experience emetics, even in small expectorant doses, act as utero-excitants ; cough-mixtures should therefore be given cautiously to women who abort easily. In incomplete abortion, the placenta and membranes being wholly or partially retained in utero after the expulsion of the foetus, danger may arise from hemorrhage or septic absorption. From hemorrhage, when the adherent bit of placenta is living and maintains its vascular connection with the uterus ; from septic absorption, when the retained portion has perished and is undergoing degeneration. Up to the third month the ovum is usually expelled entire ; but between the third and sixth months the membranes are so tough and adherent that the afterbirth generally remains in utero. In these latter cases the examining finger often finds the retained portions wholly detached or easily detachable, and can hook out everything *en bloc* ; but very often they are so firmly adherent that they can only be detached and removed in fragments, and in such cases quinine is of the greatest use. He agrees with Ramsbotham that a woman runs far greater risk from the retention of small debris partially adherent and decomposing than from a single large fragment. He thinks with Pajot that curetting or brushing out the uterine cavity for the removal of retained matters is apt to do harm, because thereby large fragments are divided up into small shreds, and as it is impossible