

# CONVULSION IN AN INFANT PRODUCED BY DRINKING ON THE PART OF THE NURSE.

Convulsions in young children are known to be not unfrequently induced by the habit to which their nurses are addicted of indulging in alcoholic liquors, and that this fact may be kept before the minds of physicians, it is desirable that well attested cases of this should from time to time be put on record in the medical journals.

M. Vernay reports an interesting case in the *Lyon Médical*, to which these remarks will apply, in which an infant was seized with convulsions, which continued with unabated violence for five successive days, in spite of the administration of bromide of potassium, musk, belladonna and warm baths.

It finally transpired that the nurse was in the habit of drinking from six to eight glasses of wine in the course of the day, besides taking considerable during the night. M. Vernay, thinking that the malady of the infant might have its origin in this habit of the nurse, took care that no wine should in future be furnished her. The result was that no further trouble was experienced on the part of the child.

Prof. Leroy has called attention to the deleterious habit of certain nurses of drinking freely of brandy or wine, whenever it suits their convenience to have the children under their care sleep for a considerable length of time.—*Boston Medical Journal*.

## TREATMENT OF FISSURES OF THE NIPPLE.

In a paper by Dr. Créquey, fissures of the nipple are described as being of two kinds. First, those produced by the violent suction on the part of the child; here the epidermis is raised and abraded, as if by a cupping-glass. In this condition of the nipple, the child should be allowed to suckle only when the breast is charged with milk. Second, at other times, a little of the milk lodges in the minute cracks at the base of the nipple, where it comes in contact with the secretions of the body and rapidly decomposes, thus acting as an active irritant of the skin, and in some instances inducing very extensive inflammation. As a preventive of cracked nipples, originating in this manner, the breast should be bathed with warm water, wiped dry, and then anointed with the following ointment:—

R. Tannin, 1 gramme;  
Glycerine, 10 grammes.

This should be applied by means of a camel's hair brush, after which the nipple should be protected with charpie, or a soft linen cloth. In these cases, the nipple-shield may be employed to advantage.

If the breast be distended with milk, relief may be afforded by the application of a large, flax-seed poultice, taking the precaution to protect the nipple with a piece of soft leather.—*Gaz. des Hôp.*, 1873.

## UTERO-PLACENTAL VACUUM.

Dr. H. G. Landis, in the *Medical Times* (April 12th, 1873), reports a case of retained placenta which he caused to be easily delivered by simply per-

forating it. He did this from the consideration that the placenta resembled in one respect the boy's leather "sucker." The perforation permitted air to enter the vacuum behind the placenta, and so facilitated its escape.

## NÆVI CURED BY MONSEL'S SOLUTION APPLIED EXTERNALLY.

Dr. Geiger, in the *American Practitioner* (April, 1873), recommends the external application of equal parts of liq. ferri persulph. and glycerine to the surface of nævi and a little of the adjacent skin. In two cases in which the applications were made twice daily the nævi disappeared in less than a month.

## SCIATICA.

Some cases of this disease which had resisted a variety of treatment, were cured at Bellevue Hospital, *almost at once*, by the hypodermic injection of morphia over the seat of pain, plunging the needle deep into the tissues, perhaps to the depth of one or one and a half inches.—*N. Y. Medical Record*.

## SULPHO-VINATE OF SODIUM IN CONSTIPATION.

This drug is recommended by Dr. P. DeMarmon as a mild saline cathartic in cases of chronic constipation. It is found to be an excellent substitute for citrate of magnesia (which now comes so impure) or Seidlitz powders. The dose for an adult is three or four drachms. Mixed with Seltzer water, or in water to which syrup of lemon has been added, it makes a palatable drink.—*N. Y. Med. Record*.

## ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS DEATH OF A PHYSICIAN FROM CARBOLIC ACID.

S. D. V. Hill, M.D., of Macon, Miss. (*Rich. and Louisville Med. Journ.*), writes that Dr. R. S. C. Foster, one of the oldest practitioners of his county, left town at nightfall with a friend, having a flask of whiskey in one pocket and a bottle of Calvert's liquid carbolic acid No. 5 in the other. After riding two miles, and being cold, he proposed to take a drink of the whiskey, and took out of his pocket the carbolic acid, withdrew the stopper with his knife, and after offering his friend some, who refused, took about half an ounce before discovering his mistake. He died in ten or fifteen minutes after entering the cabin of a negro. A quantity of mustard and lobelia were given him, but of course it produced no emesis. The poison seemed to produce sudden and fatal sedation of the nerve-centres; he states that he must have died without much suffering. Dr. Hill testifies that Dr. Foster was perfectly sober at the time, and was a man much above mediocrity in intellectual ability. The mistake was made by the two bottles being about the same size and shaped alike.

## PERUVIAN SKULLS.

The Anthropological Institute of Great Britain has received a present of 150 specimens of Peruvian skulls from Consul Hutchinson, of Callao, which were dug out of the old aboriginal burying grounds of Pasamaye and of Ancon.