

ments he draws the conclusion that in pressure extracts of the human placenta there exists some material which stimulates the escape of fluid from the walls of the blood vessels of the dogs' kidneys employed. This unknown substance is not influenced by heat; an exposure for three quarters of an hour to a temperature of  $64^{\circ}$  failed to effect it.

ALBEC, V., and LOUISE, J. E. "Ein Versuch das Eklampsiegift auf Experimentellem Wege Nachzuweisen," *Ibid.*

The authors endeavoured to ascertain if the toxins of eclampsia exist in the liquor amnii. By injecting this fluid into guinea pigs and cats and ascertaining if the specific pathological abnormalities found in the organs of eclamptic women, especially the hepatic changes, could be thus produced. They employed the liquor amnii obtained from five cases of eclampsia, all of which had suffered from one or more convulsions. The urine in all these cases contained a large quantity of albumin. All recovered after delivery.

The liquor amnii was obtained by means of a special instrument passed into the uterus, puncturing the membranes. Intraperitoneal injections were employed of at least 30 c.c.m. Control experiments in which the liquor amnii from normal pregnant women was employed were carried out with exactly the same technique.

The authors conclude that the liquor amnii of eclamptic women contains a definite eclampsia toxin, because when it is injected into guinea pigs changes are induced in the liver which appear to be absolutely similar to those found in the livers of eclamptic women. Such characteristic changes absolutely fail to appear following the injection of liquor amnii from healthy pregnant women.

MAYER, K. "Skopolamin-Morphium Bei Geburten." *Zeil. f. Gyn.*, No. 21, 1908.

The author sketches the history of the employment of scopolamin-morphia in surgery and obstetrics, and then gives a study of fifty cases in which this combination was used in labour, at Stockel's Clinic in Marburg. Following the lead of Gauss, Mayer made use of the preparation only after a certain definite progress in labour had been made. The head must be engaged and the os uteri dilated to the size of a fifty cent piece. It should be used only in those cases having strong, painful uterine contractions occurring at brief intervals. Scopolamin-morphia should not be used in enfeebled persons, where there is any degree of temperature or marked anæmia, nor in cases of placenta previa.

He draws attention to the importance of employing only fresh solutions of the drugs. He employed a 0.03 per cent. sterilized solution of Merck's preparation. To test the condition of the Scopolamin the