

Sugar as an Oxytocic.

Madlener (*Munch. Med. Woch.*), referring to Payer's paper upon "The Influence of Sugar upon Metabolism in Pregnancy and During Labor," in which Payer records decided oxytocic effects at different stages of parturition, confirms the efficiency of sugar in cases requiring increased muscular effort, and relates his own experiments while mountain-climbing. Madlener ascribes this particular influence of sugar to its rapid absorptior into the blood. No food is taken up so readily; none imparts to the system such prompt and effective stimulation as sugar.

Madlener had occasion to experiment in six cases of uterine atony, to wit, three times in primary and three times in secondary cases of deficient uterine contractility. In five cases out of six the oxytocic influence was noticeable within from one-half to one hour after exhibition. Five cases terminated by spontaneous birth. He used thirty grammes—one ounce—of sugar in a half-pint of water, and if necessary repeated the dose once. Two patients took more than prescribed (three and five ounces respectively) without untoward effects, nausea, or vomiting. In three cases out of the six Madlener noticed a decrease in the pains coupled with increased uterine contractility, as previously set forth by Payer. He strongly urges the practitioner to take advantage of this safe, inexpensive, and effective means of furthering labor.—*Medical Age*.

The Rationale of the Treatment of Anemia by Iron and Arsenic.

Dr. F. Aperti has published a valuable paper devoted to the above subject in the *Centralblatt für Innere Medicin*. From careful observations carried out for several years in the clinic of Professor Riva, it had been found that the use of injections of iron and of arsenic had different results in the primary anemias. Thus it was found that while iron increased the amount of hemoglobin in the red corpuscles, arsenic increased only the number of red corpuscles. The experimental work referred to in the paper was undertaken to determine the conditions of the blood (both as regards corpuscles and hemoglobin) after a small amount of blood had been abstracted, and also when iron was given with the food; and also to ascertain the influence of arsenic and iron upon the regeneration of the blood in animals from whom blood had been repeatedly withdrawn and whose food and nourishment were free from iron. From these experiments it appeared that two things were necessary for a complete regeneration of the blood—viz., a restitution of the protoplasm of the red corpuscles and a sufficiency of iron for the production of hemoglobin. When no iron was given in