

quickly after the acute symptoms begin to subside. Two cases have recently come under my observation of an appendicitis of a very serious nature following labour, in which operation verified the correctness of the diagnosis. In the more serious cases it is safe to suppose that either a solid substance, such as a grape-seed or a lemon-seed or some foreign body not easily got rid of, has found its way into the appendix, or that there has been a rapid extension of the inflammation due to a weak and debilitated condition of the patients, which would render them peculiarly susceptible to the inflammatory process. Having observed these conditions for several years I have come to the conclusion that many of the so-called cases of "pelvic abscess," "pelvic cellulitis," "inflammation of the ovary," "salpingitis," etc., that follow childbirth are in reality appendicitis caused in the manner just described."

A New Departure in Sanitation.—The Board of Health of this city (New York) has instituted a new departure which will prove, we believe, of extreme importance to the community. It has issued a circular in which it is stated that much of what is usually called diphtheria is not such, but is a relatively innocuous malady not needing stringent quarantine and disinfection. The diagnosis of true diphtheria can be made by bacteriological cultures in ten or twelve hours, and the Board of Health will hereafter undertake this work for the practitioner. It is surely a most radical proposition for the State to step in and offer to become the diagnostician of disease. There were, within a given period, 775 deaths from diphtheria and 362 from membranous croup, and this must represent six or seven thousand cases of these maladies, to say nothing of thousands of other suspicious cases. The amount of bacteriological work involved will be enormous if the profession call on the services of the Board. We shall watch the experiment with great interest. It will certainly have a valuable educational effect on the practitioner, and will stimulate him to acquire a practical knowledge of bacteriology, which will no doubt be of great service. Above all, it will put a quietus on those tiresome people who continue to reiterate that "they don't believe in germs." The example set by our Board will no doubt be followed elsewhere

if it is successful. It is estimated that about one-fourth only of membranous sore throats are truly diphtheritic.—*Medical Record*.

Pil. Dipsomania (Dr. Mann).—At a meeting of the American Association for the Study and Cure of Inebriety, held at the New York Academy of Medicine, March 23rd, 1893, Dr. Edward C. Mann, of Brooklyn, N.Y., Medical Superintendent of Sunnyside Private Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, Alcoholism, and the Opium Habit, read a paper on "Science vs. Folly in the Treatment of Disease caused by the Abuse of Stimulants and Narcotics: A Plea for the Suppression of the Nostrum, Patent Medicine, and Specific in Rational Therapeutics." After comparing scientific medication with charlatanism and showing the physiological action of alcohol on man and his offspring, as well as the diseases produced by indulgence, Dr. Mann passed to the subject of the Treatment of Disease of Inebriety. He recommended the following as a good tonic and sedative in Dipsomania, having a good effect on the stomach, and tending to antagonize both the degenerative changes in the brain, and the effect of alcohol on the structures of the body:

R.—Quininae sulph grs. ii.
Zinc oxide grs. ii.
Strychnia sulph gr. 1-40
Arsenic gr. 1-100
Capsicum grs. ii.

M. et ft. pill No. i. Sig.: One pill three times a day.

Together with this pill, Dr. Mann uses in his private hospital for sixteen days the following hypodermatic dosimetry:

R.—Strychnia nitrat gr. i.
Aquæ dest. ʒ ss.

M.—Eight minims daily for eight days; four minims daily for another eight days. To quiet the morning nausea of alcoholics, two or three drops of wine of ipecac on the tongue, fasting.

The patient is kept in bed for the first few days, and fed on milk and meat-juice for nourishment. Hydrotherapy and electrotherapy are employed. To induce sleep, the following sedative is administered at night for a few days: