

ally appalling. The German child learns in one year, and well, what the English child learns in three, and poorly.

ABORTIVE TREATMENT OF ERYSIPELAS OF THE FACE.—A one per cent. ethereal solution of sublimate should be used, applied with a small hand atomizer, throwing a forcible spray.

The more forcibly the spray is applied so much quicker will be the recovery, depending of course on the thickness of the skin and the severity of the case.

The small blisters or vesications which the sublimate may cause should not be the cause of its withdrawal, for in the smaller erysipelatous eruptions they should be encouraged rather than otherwise, on account of their beneficial effect.

In applying the spray, the central parts of the inflammatory areas should be only lightly sprayed, but much more thoroughly along the line of demarcation, as well as one to two cm. into the healthy skin. The eyelids should be only slightly moistened. Then apply compresses. One or two such applications of the sublimate should be sufficient. Those towards the last must be shorter, and parts which have been gone over once should be only lightly touched a second time. Only the boundaries and suspected places on the skin require the more energetic spraying.

Before commencing the treatment the patient should be informed that after every application of the spray he will feel a rather sharp burning pain, but which will not be any more severe than the discomfort caused by the tension of the skin from the erysipelas; also that his face will swell and small blisters or vesicles will form, which might likewise be caused by an erysipelatous inflammation. The crusts should not be removed, but allowed to drop off spontaneously.—*Southern Med. Rec.*

STRYCHNIN DURING PREGNANCY AS AN AID TO LABOR.—John Milton Duff, M.D., at the meeting of the Pittsburg South Side medical society, on February 13, 1893, made the following remarks in regard to the subject of "Tardy Labor." The discussion prompted him to speak of a remedy he has administered when occasion offered during the past few months. In speaking of it, he states that his observations have not been sufficiently numerous to justify him in giving a positive opinion. Nevertheless, whether by accident or otherwise, his results, so far in the majority of cases, have been most gratifying.

He referred to the administration of strychnin as a remedy preparatory to labor where there is general debility and want of muscular tone; in women who previously have had tardy labor from irregular and feeble uterine contractions and from

want of tone in the auxiliary abdominal muscles; in women who have a history of post-partum hæmorrhage, and of want of retraction and contraction of the uterus subsequent to delivery; in those who are subject to severe after-pains necessary for the expulsion of clots in the uterus. In all such cases a treatment should be instituted of one-sixtieth grain of strychnin three times a day, beginning from six weeks to two months prior to the anticipated time of delivery, and kept up until a week or ten days before delivery, when, if it is well borne, it may be increased, according to the judgment of the attendant, to one-fortieth grain or one-thirtieth grain, and in some cases to one-fifteenth grain.

The cases in which he has administered it for the most part were those with which he had had experience of tardy labors, post-partum hæmorrhage, and severe after-pains. In nearly all of them the improvement over past experiences was so great that the patients themselves were cognizant of it and expressed gratification.—*Therapeutic Gazette.*

SULPHONAL HABIT.—Dr. Gilbert, of Baden-Baden, in a paper read before the congress of German Neurologists, reports two cases of sulphonal habit in which enforced abstinence gave rise to a series of symptoms similar to those witnessed in morphine abstinence. He also speaks of two other cases in which serious symptoms were present as the result of the continued use of the drug. All four cases showed amongst their symptoms illegibility of handwriting; the patients could not write straight, and the characters were unsteady. He draws attention to the fact that sulphonal is largely used in Germany and most other countries, and obtainable without medical prescription. In regard to the mode of administering the drug, the writer recommends that it be dissolved in boiling water, poured on and allowed to cool just sufficiently to be drinkable. Sleep will follow in fifteen to twenty minutes when this method is adopted.—*Lancet.*

THE EFFECT OF COFFEE ON THE LACTEAL SECRETION.—Dr. Alice McLean, writing in the *Med. and Surg. Reporter*, says that in an institution of which she has charge recently, in which there was some thirty or so nursing women, coffee was served twice a week. Regularly upon these days the nurses in charge reported a scarcity of breast-milk, and there was frequently a necessity for resorting to artificial feeding to eke out. The author suggests that in the lying-in period, and at the time of weaning, when the breasts secrete more milk than is wanted, and when the mother is abstaining from fluids, her thirst might be quenched with coffee with good results.—*Med. Record.*