

digestion the acid disappears altogether from the gastric contents. This phenomenon should be attributed to the well-known antifermentative properties of H_2O_2 . (3) The digestive power of the gastric juice is markedly intensified. (4) In the case of hyperacidity (as well as in another case in the author's private practice) the administration of the peroxide was followed by a distinct aggravation of all gastric symptoms, while in all others, including that of cancer, marked improvement was observed—the appetite improved, the epigastric pain ceased, eructations and vomiting decreased or entirely dissappeared, the bowels became more regular, etc. The author further made experiments on frogs and dogs, his object being to elucidate the effects of H_2O_2 on the circulation. The results agree pretty closely with those published by Guttman and Schwerin, the essential point being that H_2O_2 is decomposed by the blood, and hence can give rise to gaseous embolism with its consequences, such as dyspnoea, dilatation of the cardiac cavities, etc. From these facts Iakovleff concludes that injections of H_2O_2 into the circulation for therapeutical purposes, as suggested by some authors, are absolutely inadmissible.

MEANS OF DETERMINING THE SEX OF THE FŒTUS IN UTERO.—Lassier (*Gaz. Médicale*) considers the theory of determining the sex by a fecundation just before or after the menses ridiculous. He says: "Before exposing my theory, which allows the accoucheur to determine the sex of the fœtus, let us establish first that in woman, as in all animals, there are two ovaries, of which one produces male germs, the other female germs, turn by turn, that is each in its turn. As the Creator has left nothing to chance, it cannot be otherwise. Besides this principle is amply proved by the ovipara, whose eggs are always paired. In the pigeon, the female lays two eggs, which hatch out a pair. With the canary and thrush the eggs are usually four in number, and are mated. If the eggs of the same hen are hatched, the sex of the chickens is equally divided, the same occurs in the case of the goose and turkey. This granted, let us apply the same rule to women, and we shall see that we have two means for the determination of sex. The woman emits an ovule every month, the ovaries

produce each in turn; the germs are alternately male and female. A remarkable fact is that the period of gestation in woman is nine months, an unequal number. The same thing occurs in all uniparous animals; the mare eleven months; the cow, nine; sheep, five; in such a manner that while a female drops her young she sheds at the same time a germ of opposite sex. It is easy to understand why a woman who lies on her left side, has nine chances to two of having a boy, because in this position the ovary which produces the male ovules has more chances of its ovule being fecundated than the other, and *vice versa*. I have established that the procedure of ovulation alternates in the production of the sexes. This also permits us to determine the sex by calculation. If the woman is a primipara, the accoucheur has the *decubitus* for a guide. If it is her second or third pregnancy, he has only to find out the sex of the last child. If it was a male at term, the ovule corresponding to the lying-in was female, and so on. A woman becomes pregnant at the ninth month after delivery; if the last was a boy, this will be a boy also. If at the tenth it will be a girl.

SANTONIN AS AN EMMENAGOGUE.—On April 10th, 1892, I was called to see Mrs. A. B., aged thirty-six years, and, says Dr. Bergey in *Therapist*, found her in great agony from uterine colic. The pains had lasted for several days, and gradually assumed a graver form, notwithstanding the various domestic remedies which she had employed. Hot water bags were applied and frequently changed. Hot drinks were freely administered and frequently repeated, but without affording any relief. The pain was so severe that it was necessary to resort to large doses of morphine to get it under control. In the meantime a ten grain dose of santonin was administered. The menstrual flow became fully established by the second day after administering the santonin, and the patient rapidly recovered. To avoid such serious crises at future periods, I prescribed several ten grain powders of santonin, one to be taken at night, at the first approach of the menstrual molimen. In this manner the suffering has been warded off at each subsequent period, and menstruation established each time without any disturbance, to the profound gratifi-