

APPENDICITIS DURING PREGNANCY.

Bouillier (*Tèse de Lyon*, 1897) discusses this subject on a basis of 22 observations, considering (1) the influence of pregnancy on appendicitis, (2) the influence of appendicitis on pregnancy. As to the first point he concludes that pregnancy plays no part as an etiological factor in the causation of appendicitis. The pregnant woman is not more subject to this form of inflammation than the non-pregnant. The influence of appendicitis on pregnancy is, on the other hand, well marked. In 7 out of the 22 cases abortion at about the fourth month resulted, either before or after surgical treatment. Spontaneous abortion may be due either to the febrile condition and the affection of the general health, or to infection of the pelvic organs from the appendix; possibly to both factors. The mortality in the 22 cases was: Maternal, 30.4 per cent.; fetal, 47.8 per cent.; consequently pregnancy renders the prognosis of appendicitis more serious. The treatment is that of appendicitis, the pregnancy not constituting a contraindication. Early intervention is desirable, since, if the case be left, there is grave danger of puerperal complications due to general infection or to direct infection of the pelvic organs.—*British Medical Journal*.

PRACTICAL ADVICE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF CHLOROFORM.

Professor Berger, after observing that the administration of chloroform is a surgical procedure which must conform to certain precise rules, in conclusion recapitulates the main principles:

1. The safety of the anæsthesia depends entirely on the continuous and rigorous observation of every physiological phenomenon.
2. If there is one thing to be observed beyond all others, it is the respiration, disturbance of which almost always announces the approach of accidents. Respiration must be appreciated by the ear.
3. The examination of the colour and of the vascular reflexes of the face has an almost equal importance to the last.
4. The palpebral reflex is a very sure, but not an absolute, guide.
5. The manner of commencement of chloroformization has a determining influence over the whole duration of anæsthesia.
6. Chloroform is to be administered in a continuous manner at the beginning and during the stage of excite-