

word, but there are drugs which, given in toxic doses, may cause at the same time both abortion and the death of the woman; these drugs are therefore useless and inefficacious, and there is danger of poisoning to the woman.

With regard to the ecbolic and oxytocic drugs, they belong to another class, and have the property of arousing and aiding the progress of uterine contractility, or of strengthening the intensity of the uterine contractions after they have been aroused; the action of the latter is certain, that of the former doubtful.

The abortive or ecbolic action of quinine sulphate, says the author, has been discussed by many writers whose investigations and experiments show that this drug should not be considered as an abortive agent; in several cases in which there was contraction of the pelvis and it was necessary to interrupt the pregnancy, this drug was given every day in large doses without producing the least symptom of labor, yet it was given in amounts that, if not toxic, were at least sufficient to cause quinine intoxication.

M. BOISSARD thinks there should be no hesitation in employing quinine sulphate during pregnancy whenever symptoms of malarial infection manifest themselves, and these cases are rather frequent, pregnancy serving to arouse in some way the previously dormant infection. It is the same with sodium salicylate; only ergot, because of its oxytocic properties, should be rejected, even in cases of hæmorrhages during pregnancy, in order not to cause tetanization of the uterine fibers.

Narcotic, analgetic, or anæsthetic drugs may be administered without fear when their employment is justified, and may be of great benefit to the parturient woman. The different preparations of belladonna and of stramonium may be employed, also antipyrine, opium, chloral, and chloroform or ether. In case of threatening abortion, laudanum is admirably borne, and as much as a hundred drops, in enemata of boiled water, may be given during the twenty-four hours, twenty-five drops at a time being the amount used. It is the same also of chloral in vomiting, and of chloroform, which is employed during pregnancy to clear up the diagnosis and ascertain the exact configuration of the pelvic cavity, in order to reduce retroversion of the gravid uterus and to facilitate version by external means.

The different mercurial preparations, continues M. BOISSARD, are administered, not only in cases of acknowledged syphilis, but also in doubtful and unacknowledged cases when the physician finds himself in the presence of a series of abortions or premature births of macerated infants.

Concerning the administration of purgatives, M. BOISSARD says that, under the pretext that in the beginning of pregnancy it is dangerous to use purgatives, some women reach an extraordinary condition of constipation which is much graver than the possibility of the danger they fear. In a general way it is of great advantage to keep the functions of