

Of the many theories advanced none seem to account for all the facts observed under them, and so cannot be looked upon as satisfactory. Santos, *Archiv für Gynak.*, has made a study of fifty-three cases in Buda-Pesth clinic, and has concluded from such study that the albuminuria is caused by a reflex irritation of the sympathetic and renal nerves due to the increasing distention of the uterus, and the irritation of the uterine nerves by this distention, and subsequent contraction. He considers it physiological in pregnancy, and diagnostic of pregnancy. This accounts for the more frequent occurrence of albuminuria in young women, in whom reflexes are most easily excited. Any condition heightening the general reflexes favors albuminuria. Santos regards eclampsia as an "acute peripheral epilepsy," whose genetic zone is the uterus. Upon this basis he readily explains the action of narcotics, and rare cases in which eclampsia occurs without albuminuria.

ERGOT IN INCONTINENCE OF URINE IN CHILDREN.

—A writer in the *Med. Analectic*, says: I have been using for many years the fluid extract of ergot in the treatment of incontinence of urine in infants and children; and I almost regard it as a specific for the disease. I prefer to give it simply, and to treat separately any conditions of the patients that may require therapeutical aid to correct those states of physical debility which either predispose to incontinence of urine or aggravate its presence. I give to an infant from one to three years old, 5 to 10 drops; and to a patient from three to ten years, 10 to 20 drops every three hours. Few children object to its taste, and it should be continued uninterruptedly for two or three weeks, and resumed if the disease should return, in which case the doses ought to be gradually increased.

LACTIC ACID IN THE DIARRHŒA OF TUBERCULOSIS.—We have recently noted the good results obtained from lactic acid in certain diarrhœas of children. It has been found valuable also in the diarrhœa attending phthisis. The idea seems to have been suggested (*Lyon Méd.*) by the good results obtained by the administration of this drug in other tubercular troubles, notably ulcer of the larynx and tongue. It has been found necessary

to administer it in doses of from 90 to 120 grains in divided doses during the twenty-four hours. The gastric disturbances and roughness of the teeth caused by this amount may be obviated by adding half a drachm of chlorodyne to the solution. Excellent results have been reported in nine cases.

FOR SEAT WORMS.—The following mixture is said (*Med. News*) to be highly efficient:

R.—Tinct. rhei. gtt. iij.
Tinct. zingiberis gtt. ij.
Magnesii carbonatis. ʒ iv.
Aquæ ʒ iij.—M.

This amount to be given three or four times daily, according to the effect produced.

The rhubarb may act as a vermicide or as an agent which simply detaches the worms. In either event it causes the expulsion of great numbers of them and induces regular bowel movement.

BIRTH PALSIES.—In a clinical lecture by Gowers (*Lancet*) birth palsies are divided into peripheral and cerebral. The former are generally of the facial nerve and of the nerves supplying the arms. They are not of a severe nature and recover spontaneously. Cerebral palsies occur most frequently after first and difficult labors. Extravasation of blood over the cortex, or at the base of the brain, is the usual condition, resulting in death or tedious recovery. In diagnosis, symptoms of severe injury or defective development of the nervous system are present, without history of definite onset. Chronic spinal disease is rare in children. In birth palsies, reflexes are excessive; in muscular diseases, they are not increased. Prognosis: tendency to slow improvement. Treatment by drugs, by electricity and tenotomy is useless. Rhythmical gymnastic training, with hygiene, is of value.

PUERPERAL PERITONITIS, DRAINAGE.—Dr. Woodword (*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*) reports a case of puerperal peritonitis, which came under his care about six weeks after labor. There was a large amount of pus in the abdomen, an abscess having burst into the abdominal cavity thirty-six hours before labor. He performed laparotomy, evacuated a large amount of offensive pus, and irrigated the cavity with hydronaphthol, 1-1100, introduced a drainage tube and dressed the parts antiseptically. He frequently irrigated the cavity with warm water. The patient recovered.