

of Paris or a fixed dressing. If the toes show a tendency to swell, they should be strapped first. After about a week, fresh plaster should be put on. I first adopted this treatment five or six years ago, and I have treated sprains that way ever since, and have never felt that I have made a mistake in so doing. Quite recently I have treated chronic sprains by giving the patient ether, and producing a condition simulating an acute sprain, and so far with fairly good results.—*Maryland Med. Journal*.

Surgical Cases of Tuberculosis and Treatments by Phosphate of Copper.—M. Lenton recommended the salts of copper in the treatment of tuberculosis in general in 1885. M. de Saint Germain has again brought the treatment to attention. It is principally in tuberculosis of the joints that it has been employed. The preparation is:

1. Phosphate of soda in crystals, 5 gr.
Glycerine and water (equal parts) 60 gr.
2. Acetate of copper, 1 gr.
Glycerine and water, 40 gr.

Mix the two solutions without filtering.

Injectations are made in doses of one gramme at intervals of two weeks. The injections provoke a fever which lasts from one to three days. They may be given in any part of the body, but deep injection behind the great trochanter is recommended. Nine cases are reported treated by the method. As yet, there have been no recurrences of the disease, and as the remedy seems entirely devoid of danger, it seems worthy of a more extended trial. ERNEST LUTON, *Mal. de l'Enf.*

Radical Cure of Inguinal Hernia in Children.—It is generally considered that an operation for the cure is more grave below the age of five years. With careful dressings, however, the wound may be sufficiently protected, and the author has operated upon four children of less than five years of age without experiencing the least difficulties. In congenital hernia there is sometimes a retro-peritoneal or pro-peritoneal dilatation. The author has met this four times in adults. This offers an anatomical cause for the lack of success of a bandage. The necessity of wearing a bandage day and night for several years, and the great amount of

attention which it requires are strong arguments against it. With a child over three years of age the operative treatment is to be advised.—BROCA, *Mal. de l'Enf.*

MIDWIFERY.

Birth in the Coffin.—The *Medical Press* quotes the following singular case from a German exchange: "The patient, aged thirty-five, was attended in labour by a midwife on the 19th of June. The same evening at 7 p. m., the woman died undelivered. The funeral took place three days later. On the 5th of the following July the body was disinterred on account of an accusation of malpractice made against the midwife. On opening the coffin there was found, 'between the thighs of the corpse, the body of a male child.' There was also 'total eversion of the uterus, together with the vagina.' It is supposed that the decomposing gases in the abdomen of the corpse were sufficient to cause the expulsion of a normally presenting foetus."—*N. Y. Medical Record*, July 26, 1893.

Brasseur on a Case of Conception During the Puerperal Period.—The writer quotes a case (already published in the *Centralbl. für Gynaecol.*) of a woman aged twenty-two who was delivered on July 4, 1892, of her first child. July 8th she practised coitus and was again delivered March 10, 1893, of a child measuring fifty-two centimetres in length and weighing 3,550 grammes. Calculating from the date of coitus, the second pregnancy lasted 243 days, that is, 27 days less than the normal.

The case caused considerable discussion. Ovulation must have existed in the woman on the fourth day after the delivery, and it was necessarily quite independent of menstruation.

Koenig, who originally reported the case, draws from it the following deductions:

1. A gestation period of 243 days after a fecundating coitus may produce a viable child
2. The spermatozoa can live in the lochial secretions.
3. The functional activity of the ovaries is not completely suspended during pregnancy. The Graafian follicles so open that they may burst a very short time after delivery.