

Hemorrhage from Mouth and Anus of New-born Infants.

Dr. Spiegelberg, in a recent number of the *Jahrbuch für Kinderheilkunde*, relates two cases of the so-called *malena* in new-born infants. In both instances the infants were to all appearance healthy at birth. In one, on the fourth day, and in the other after thirty hours, there occurred a copious discharge of blood by the mouth and per anum. In both cases death ensued within a few hours, under symptoms of anæmia. Upon post-mortem examination, in both cases there was found in the duodenum ulcerations from the size of a lintseed to that of 1 cm. long by $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. broad. Dr. S. refers these ulcerations to a diseased action commencing during uterine life.—*Am. Jour. Med. Science.*

Alcohol in Fevers.

As to the use of alcohol in fevers, I am guided almost entirely by the condition of the nervous system. If there is very complete prostration and delirium of a low muttering character, it is required. A tremulous state of the muscles, marked especially by a quivering of the hands and fingers, is a good test of the necessity for it; and so is the sharp, weak, unequal beat of the heart. All these indicate that the nervous system is feeling very sensitively the destructive metamorphosis going on, and has its power lowered by its sensitiveness. Then is the opportunity for the powerful anæsthetic alcohol, which in severe cases you see me order without scruple; but which I do not rank as part of the necessary *methodus medendi* of fever, and have not yet ordered for the lad we have been prescribing for. Above all, I would caution you against employing it as a substitute for the treatment which I have been describing. Wine may be useful as an adjunct, but never must it take the place of the true restoratives.—*Chambers' Lectures.*

Toxic Action of Quinine.

A case is reported by Mr. E. Garraway, in which a lady, aged 40, was suddenly seized with œdema of the face and limbs, accompanied by an unusual erythematous rash and considerable uneasiness at the præcordia. She attributed it to having taken a white powder, purchased at a chemist's, in mistake for quinine; on examination it proved to be sulphate of quinine. After three or four days the œdema and rash subsided, and desquamation of the skin occurred. During convalescence quinine was unreflectingly ordered. Two hours after the first dose, which only consisted of two grains, she felt ill and all the former symptoms recurred.—*Practitioner.*

Mixed Treatment for Popliteal Aneurism.

M. Desanges (of Lyons) communicated to the Imperial Academy of Surgery (Oct. 6, 1869) a very interesting case of popliteal aneurism treated successfully by the employment of several methods; digital compression, mechanical compression, flexion, and refrigeration. M. D. recommends this mixed treatment, which perfectly succeeded in this case, the subject of which was a physician.—*L'Union Médicale*, Oct 16, 1869.—*Am. Jour. Med. Science.*

Oxalate of Cæsium in the Sickness of Pregnancy.

There has recently been adduced some strong evidence of the efficacy of the oxalate of cæsium, recommended some years since by Sir James Simpson, for the sickness of pregnancy. Mr. Edwin Bush states (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, Nov. 27, 1869) that he has never been disappointed with it in many cases giving five grains three or four times a day in water. He says further, that in cases of persistent irritable stomach, arising from uterine disturbance in unmarried females and in the absence of pregnancy, he has invariably found it a good remedy.—*Am. Jour. Med. Science.*

Anæsthesia on a New Principle.

At a late meeting of the British Medical Association, Dr. B. W. Richardson exhibited a knife consisting of a revolving blade, and which divided with such rapidity that superficial incision could be made with it without pain. The revolutions were about twenty-five per second, but the speed might be greatly increased. The knife, in its action, illustrated that an appreciable interval of time is necessary for fixing an impression on the mind, and for the development of consciousness. He hoped he should soon be able to give to the surgeon a small pocket instrument with which to open abscesses, and perform many minor surgical operations painlessly, without having recourse to either general or local anæsthesia.—*Scientific American.*

On the Treatment of Laceration of the Perineum.

Dr. John Brinton, Surgeon to the Royal Maternity Charity, London, contributes a paper to the *Glasgow Medical Journal* for November, 1869, in which he advocates the sewing up of the rent immediately after delivery. He narrates three cases so treated, and remarks: 1st. That the result of the recent operations is very satisfactory. 2nd. That the operation is very easy. 3rd. That it is comparatively free from danger, and is nearly painless, requiring no chloroform, because the parts which have been torn are in an anæsthetic state, being benumbed by the pressure they have recently undergone.—*Am. Jour. Med. Science.*

Loss of Weight.

The regularity with which death results on the loss of a certain amount of weight, should lead us to make more use than we do of the balance, the easily applied aid to diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. It is a direct measure of the success of our medicines, or of the progress of disease. The body dies when it loses four-tenths of its normal weight.—*Chambers' Lectures.*

Emmenagogues.

To what purpose are emmenagogues? Why should we wish to force the ovaries or uterus to bleed when the reason why they do not bleed is that there is not enough blood formed? The custom of administering purgatives, whenever the bowels are not open so often as those of robust persons, is another too familiar instance of mistaking the true nature of the deficiency.—*Chambers' Lectures.*