

With the boldness that comes from confidence and experience, the sponge bath in the manner indicated is discarded, and the child is stripped nude and the entire body wrapped in a sheet previously wrung from cold water. Injection of cold water into the rectum has been practiced, and I am sure if the bowels could be well filled and the water retained for some time it would prove beneficial.

Under the influence of cold bath, not only is bodily heat dissipated, but inspiration, which is short and shallow, becomes much longer and deeper. As a result, more oxygen is taken into the blood and the carbolic acid in excess is liberated. The blood becomes purer and the brain cells and nerve centres are in consequence supplied with a more healthy pabulum, and thus enabled to perform their function in a normal manner. The heart, which has been rapid and irregular, and many times very weak, is given tonic, and forces the healthy blood in even currents to all parts of the body. The kidneys secrete an increased amount of urine, and from all avenues of the organism ptomaines, which had been circulating through brain, nerve and muscle, and are an important element in producing the eclampsia, are in this way liberated and gotten rid of.

I am aware that, even in a progressive age like the present, methods of procedure, sanctioned by high authority and hoary with years, are not easily changed. More particularly is this true of those affections with which we seem to be familiar by frequent contact. It is well, however, for us at times to cast about us, take new bearings as it were and see if from this vantage ground some step forward cannot be taken. This, I am sure, will be true in convulsions of infants if the plan of treatment outlined in this paper is followed.—*Col. Med. Jour.*

EXAMPLES OF FALSEHOODS OR APPARENT FALSEHOODS IN CASES OF HYSTERIA.—Dr. Vibert has reported two interesting examples of what he terms "pathological" falsehoods. The fabrications of hysterical patients are generally not falsehoods, as these persons are not conscious of the falseness of their statements, and as these latter are based upon real deceptions of memory. The first case, a servant girl, 28 years old, is found gagged on the floor, on her mistress' return to the house. She claimed that a burglar had entered the house and maltreated her in this way. The circumstances rather indicated that the assault in question was a feigned one. Nothing was stolen. The cause of this comedy was not ascertainable. The girl had been hysterical for a number of years, and had for some days been subject to feelings of oppression and marked persecutory ideas. On the day of the feigned assault she was apparently in an abnormal mental state,

probably somnambulism. As soon as she became lucid, after a few hours, she recognized at once the autosuggestive deception, to which she had been subject. The second case was that of a man, 30 years of age, who had presented symptoms of hysteria virilis. He was a person of very lively imagination; had heard of the railroad accident at St. Maudé, claimed to have been present and to have suffered severe injury. He sent in a claim for damages which was rejected. In 1892 he appeared at a police station quite exhausted, vomiting blood, accusing a certain coachman of having wilfully driven over him. He was taken to the hospital, and on account of the presence of abdominal symptoms, a laparotomy was performed, but no internal injury was discovered. The investigation of the affair did not develop any satisfactory case against the coachman, but on the contrary made it probable that the whole story was invented by the accuser; i. e., that it was a case of autosuggestion. It appeared that the latter had no intention of hurting anyone by the accusation, as he was so convinced of the reality of the injury as to permit the performance of a laparotomy.—*Annales d'Hygiene Publique.*

OPERATION IN GENERAL SUPPURATIVE PERITONITIS.—The principal reason why surgeons have not succeeded in saving life oftener by operation in these cases is, in the opinion of Miles F. Porter, because the operations have been done too late. He has operated in three cases—two *in extremis*, both of which died, and in one five days after an attempted abortion. As soon as the peritoneum was incised there escaped a large quantity of turbid, stinking serum, followed later by pus of the consistence of cream. There were no adhesions, the pus being free in the peritoneal cavity. This was thoroughly flushed with hot salt solution and drained with a glass tube. The second day threatening symptoms necessitated a second flushing. Patient recovered.—*Int. Jour. Surg.*

SURGICAL SHOCK AS A CAUSE OF DEATH IN WOMEN.—Charles P. Noble hits the nail squarely on the head when he says: "Deaths from shock in women after abdominal and pelvic operations, as a broad statement, are so many unnecessary deaths, and represent deaths from hæmorrhage or from greatly prolonged operations. Of course the exceptions are the operated upon *in extremis*, and these operations are seldom attempted except by the more courageous of well-trained gynecologists.—*Med. News.*

SANMETTO.—I have been using Sanmetto for several years, and find it invaluable in nearly all kidney and bladder troubles, especially those accompanied by irritation or inflammation of the mucous membranes, as well as in sexual decay and pre-senility.—Wm. F. Mitchell M.D., Addison, Pa.