

## Midwifery.

### ACTION OF QUININE ON THE UTERUS.

M. Monterverdi communicates to the *Nuova Liguria Medica* the results of a series of experiments he has made on this subject. He has invariably employed the sulphate of the alkaloid. He finds that quinine exerts a general tonic influence on all the organs of the body, but especially upon the uterus. In the course of half an hour after it has been administered, short contractions occur in the uterus, unaccompanied by pain; and these gradually become longer and stronger, with distinct intermissions, so as to resemble closely ordinary pains of labour, the effect lasting for about two hours. In order to effect the expulsion of the fœtus and of the placenta, he believes that doses of about four grains will be found the most appropriate. Quinine appears to be preferable to ergot, because it exercises no injurious influence either on the mother or child, because it is very certain in its action, because the contractions it induces are very regular and natural in their character, and because it is free from danger at whatever period of pregnancy it is administered; or in cases of contracted pelvis, incomplete dilatation of the os uteri, and antecedent to the escape of the waters. He finds that it is of service in the metrorrhagia of pregnancy, in amenorrhœa in consequence of a torpid condition of the uterus, and in puerperal fever, as a consequence of its tonic action. He considers quinine to be indicated in all diseases of the digestive organs, and of the urino-genital system dependent upon atony of the various organic constituents. M. Monteverdi gives a caution in regard to the use of quinine in pregnancy complicated with any disease requiring its administration, lest abortion or premature delivery be induced. In cases where quinine proves too energetic in its action, he recommends opiates to diminish its effect. He considers quinine to be contra-indicated, as a general rule, in hysteria.—*Lancet*.