

known cases, when the child was viable, as in the eight or ninth month of pregnancy, and when I brought on premature labor to allay excessive and uncontrollable vomiting, that the vomiting did cease, almost immediately after the rupture of the membranes and before emptying of the uterus. With a small sized uterine sound, I punctured the membranes. In an hour after the operation, she took, with decided appetite, some beefsteak and retained it; at night she did the same, and when I saw her in the morning, she and her mother informed me that she had slept well, and that she had a good appetite, having eaten various things for breakfast. About forty-eight hours after the operation, foetus and secundines came away, and she made a rapid recovery.

I am aware that there is high authority against the emptying of the uterus in cases of excessive vomiting during pregnancy. I am aware, too, of the sudden and favorable changes which sometimes take place in such cases. The experienced physician can often foresee that such will be the result, and he will persevere with his remedies. I will admit that it does happen, even when he despairs. But it also happens, that although our patient occasionally gets well when we expect them to die, on the other hand they sometimes die when we expect them to get well. We must reason from a general rule and not from an exception.

The only authority I will quote is that of Tyler Smith: "When all other means fail, and when the exhaustion of the patient cannot be arrested, the remedy is the emptying of the uterus, and this should never be delayed so long as to put the patient in a state of imminent peril. Nature herself often terminates the distress by spontaneous abortion. It has happened to me to have been twice consulted, within a recent period, in cases in which the induction of premature labor artificially was so long delayed that the patient had died before abortion could be induced. Paul Dubois has stated that he met with twenty fatal cases in thirteen years. It is a reproach to our art that such cases should occur."—*Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics*.

**THE USE OF SPIRITS AND MALTED DRINKS IN NURSING WOMEN.**—Dr. Jacobi opened a discussion on this subject at the recent meeting

of the New York Academy of Medicine (Section of Pædiatrics.) He thought the question intimately connected with that of diet generally, as to whether it was possible for foreign substances in the blood to get in to the secretions of the mammæ, and from there into the digestive organs of the baby. The speaker then dealt at length with the whole subject of the chemical and physiological experiments on milk secretion. He pointed out that the character and quality of the breast secretions of the mother were subject by many causes to continual variation. As long as the milk was a real secretion there was little danger that any deleterious matter which might be floating in the blood would get admixed with the mammary secretion; but as soon as the woman became anæmic or got below par the secretion would no longer be simply milk, but part of it would be serum and other material foreign to its normal composition. Whatever floated in the serum would find its way into the mammæ and into the baby. This could be seen when we compared colostrum with milk. Conditions of the mother's milk, which in the later months of the child's nursing life would be absolutely devoid of danger, might, immediately after birth, and while the milk still contained colostrum, produce much mischief.

Discussing then the subject of alcohol, the speaker said that the difficulty at once presented itself as to the woman's exact condition. Some women could take a certain quantity of spirits, while a feeble person taking the same quantity might produce results deleterious to the baby. It had been stated that the nursing woman must not have spirits, but that she must have beer. Most of those who insisted on this point were the nurses themselves. Blood saturated with alcohol could not be good nutriment for the foetus, and the same was true of the baby; and supposing the milk secreted to be, from any disturbance in the health of the mother, partly serum, then alcohol taken by her would certainly be found in the mother's milk. It might be true that this could only be urged in the case of those who were habitual drunkards, but he saw in the best families wet-nurses who would get drunk, and who would in that way be certainly likely to injure the baby. It has been stated, among other things, that alcohol