

Cazaux, these symptoms are regarded as the result of a Chloroanæmic state of the system; which is rather to be treated by the judicious administration of some one of the preparations of iron, combined with tonics. In pregnancy the blood is darker than at other periods, its coloured corpuscles are diminished in number; the water is materially increased; the fibrine is relatively augmented, in consequence of which, when the blood coagulates it has a thin layer of buff on its surface, and the amount of albumen in the serum is diminished. "It is now well proved that the essential character of plethora is based upon a great increase in the proportion of the blood corpuscles, as their diminution is the distinctive fact in anæmia. Now, if we admit with M. M. Andral and Gavarret, that the mean normal proportion of corpuscles is 127, or with M. M. Becquerel and Rodier that it is 141 for men and 125 for women, it will be seen that all the analyses made up to the present time give a much lower mean for a woman at an advanced stage of pregnancy. Thus, of 31 bleedings examined by Andral and Gavarret, but one specimen exhibited, at the end of the second month, a proportion of corpuscles greater than the physiological mean, namely 145. In one only, pregnant between one and two months, did the corpuscles reach the physiological standard of 128. In all the remaining 32 cases the corpuscles were below this point, ranging in 6 cases from 125 to 120, and in the other 26, from 120 to 95." Page 276.

The use of Anæsthetics in midwifery has produced a great deal of angry discussion in the medical world. The opponents of the practice have gone to one extreme, asserting that it tends to induce many frightful conditions which it is the desire of every practitioner to avoid. It is liable say they to cause death; to arrest completely, or diminish materially, uterine action; to produce alarming post partum hæmorrhage, or to bring on insanity and puerperal convulsions. The advocates for the employment of chloroform and ether in obstetric practice, on the other hand, go to the other extreme and affirm boldly that when either of these anæsthetics is carefully administered there is not the slightest danger of any accident occurring. The truth, as is commonly found, lies in the mean. The statements of the alarmists are greatly exaggerated, and they have formed their conclusions from insufficient data; whilst those of their opponents are given recklessly, and without reference to certain facts which militate strongly against their views. That chloroform may produce death, is a fact unfortunately too well established to be for a moment gainsayed. Surgeons of eminence, who always adopt every precaution for the safety of their patients, have nevertheless lost individuals, during operations, from the effects of the inhalation of chloroform. And death, moreover, is not always caused by the inhalation of a great quan-