

use of opium." He does injustice to Scanzoni by this deduction, for the latter says blood-letting, general and local, is indicated at all times when there exists a hyperæmia of the nerve centres.

A vein should be opened, when the patient is robust and plethoric, with a red face, an eye brilliant, the conjunctiva injected, the carotids beat violently, and there is fear of cerebral congestion. If the bleeding is not sufficient, he recommends the application of from 5 to 20 leeches (equal to from 25 to 100 American) to the mastoid processes, and ice to the head. Internally, narcotics, especially opium, after the expulsion of the child, if the convulsions continue; and this he advises to be pushed till profound sleep is induced. Dewees reports a fatal termination from the use of laudanum. Churchill quotes Collins in its favor. Rambotham cites many authorities against it, and he himself condemns it while the symptoms are urgent, and cautions practitioners in its use, even after delivery. Cazeaux declares it should be banished from the treatment. Colombat counsels reserve in its employment when there is cerebral congestion and stupor. Meigs advises it after free depletion, the evacuation of the bowels, and the application of revulsives to the limbs. He says a good dose ought to be given, as 40 drops of laudanum, or 20 of black drop, or 2 grains of the powdered opium, or 50 drops of laudanum as injection.

The obstetric treatment is indorsed by all. It may be summed up as follows:—

Use every means to dilate the os uteri, so as to deliver. The womb should be emptied by encouraging contraction; the great indication is to empty the uterus, as this, as a general rule, is followed by very positive improvement in all the symptoms.

In conclusion, Dr. Naegelé offered the following summary:—

1. That the nature of puerperal convulsions is yet undecided.
2. That the cause or causes are undetermined.
3. That uræmia as the *only cause* is not only doubted but denied, if not disproved.
4. That the dependence of the convulsion upon the retained urea in the blood, being by some supposed ferment converted into carbonate of ammonia, is at best but an hypothesis, whose truthfulness is strongly disproved by the experiments of Dr. W. A. Hammond; experiments precisely similar to those performed by Frerichs, upon which he reared his carbonate of ammonia doctrine.
5. That post-mortem revelations are unsatisfactory, and at best present but little that is positive in regard to the pathology of puerperal convulsions.
6. That in reference to the treatment, the almost universal testimony is in favor of reasonable depletion, general and local; that the use of chloroform and opiates as remedies are each both strongly recommended and almost as strongly denounced; and that the obstetrical treatment, the speedy and prompt emptying of the uterus is the only portion of the management of puerperal eclampsia which is universally agreed upon, as proper.

MEDICINE.

REMARKABLE CASE OF RECOVERY FROM DROWNING.

In the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for September 5th, Dr. Alfred C. Garratt reports a very interesting and remarkable case of recovery from drowning, in which Faradism and electro-puncture were the principal agents employed. The case is well worthy of being quoted entire, but our limited space will not admit of it.

It is stated that the patient had been immersed for *twenty or thirty* minutes