

acteristic changes in the liver and blood, which, as we shall see later, are almost constantly present in eclampsia, are wanting in ordinary cases of uremia. The theory of uremia presupposes a pre-existing nephritis as the primary condition while the pathologic-anatomic findings in cases of eclampsia make it reasonably certain that the kidney lesions are in general secondary.

The theory of uremia has at present but few supporters especially when generally applied to cases of eclampsia, but there are some who still believe it applicable to certain cases.

The other theory and the one which to-day finds most adherents is that of auto-intoxication, which signifies that during pregnancy under certain conditions poisons are elaborated and may by accumulation, circulating in the blood, reach such a degree of concentration as to produce the characteristic eclamptic seizures by their action on the nerve centres.

The recent experiments of Blunibreich and Zuntz (1) have shown that during pregnancy a considerable increase in the excitability of the nerve centres takes place, rendering them peculiarly responsive to any form of stimulus, which may in part explain the unusual tendency to eclamptic attacks at this time.

The theory of auto-intoxication had its inception in the teachings of Bouchard some years ago.

Bouchard had determined that the urine in health was extremely poisonous to lower animals when injected into the circulation.

Laulanie and Chambrelent (2) conducted a series of experiments in eclamptic patients and found that the urine was much less poisonous than of normal pregnant women.

They also conducted experiments to determine the relative toxicity of the blood serum of eclamptic women and found that the blood serum of such women was far more toxic than in health. They further determined by their experiments that the degree of toxicity of the blood serum of eclamptics was in direct proportion to the diminished toxicity of the urine. They, therefore, interpreted these findings as proof of the accumulation of poisons in the blood of eclamptics, and a corresponding diminution of elimination of the poisons by the kidneys. These experiments have in the main been confirmed by Ludwig and Savor (3), while Volhard's (4) experiments gave results directly antagonistic.

Recently Schumacher's (5) has thoroughly gone over the ground in an exhaustive series of experiments, and