

at once took place, and the lives of women were saved. In every case cathartics were given early, and the uterus was emptied of its contents as speedily as possible, yet no favorable change occurred until the blood-letting had been practised. Irregularity of the pulse was insisted upon as an imperative indication for the abstraction of blood. The author had never seen a fatal case, either in his father's practice or in his own, when venesection was practised, and he asserted that if this measure was resorted to before consciousness had been abolished the patient would not die of eclampsia. The lancet was the sheet-anchor in convulsions of pregnant and parturient women. The author laid down the following rules, which should be followed in every case of pregnancy: 1, Always see the patient at least two months before the completion of her term; 2, test the urine frequently; 3, if there is much persistent headache, open a vein and bleed until the headache is relieved; 4, warn the patient against indulging in an improper diet; 5, keep the bowels open; and 6, if the patient be seen for the first time at the beginning of labor, and convulsions are threatening, resort at once to venesection.

Dr. Moore, of Monroe County, had had somewhat less happy experience than the author of the paper, and he had seen cases that did not yield to blood-letting. He believed that the only real cure was to be obtained by eliminating from the blood the poison that occasioned the convulsions, and the way to do this was to produce abundant catharsis. He preferred for this purpose the saline cathartics. But the action of cathartics is not instantaneous, and in order to gain time it is necessary to avert the threatened convulsion by some ready means. Blood-letting will do this; but ether, not chloroform, will also do this and do it better. He always gave ether, in puerperal convulsions even, and especially, when there was unconsciousness with stertorous breathing. He gave plenty of it, and kept the patient profoundly under its influence, for hours if necessary, until the cathartic had produced a copious evacuation of the bowels.

Dr. Pomeroy, of Monroe County, related a case in which convulsions occurred again and again, in spite of the use of chloroform, and did

not cease until the bowels had acted thoroughly. He thought the lancet was useful in certain cases, but the thing of prime necessity was free catharsis.

Dr. Hovey maintained that the main thing to do in a case of puerperal eclampsia was to empty the uterus.

Dr. Thayer, of King's County, agreed with Dr. Moore as to the value of ether, but preferred *veratrum viride*. The treatment of convulsions by means of this agent was very extensively practised in Brooklyn, but the doses, to be effectual, must be large—a drachm of the tincture. This drug reduces the rapidity of the circulation speedily and permanently, and when the pulse is lowered the convulsions will cease. Drachm doses may be repeated every hour, according to the indications afforded by the pulse.

FRACTURE AT BASE OF ACETABULUM.

Dr. C. C. F. Gay, of Erie County, read a paper on Fracture of the Base of the Acetabulum, at the meeting of the New York State Medical Association.

It has been said that this fracture rarely occurs, and that when it does, it is due to a violent injury over the trochanter. But the object of the present paper was to show that it is of not so infrequent occurrence, and that it may be produced by comparatively slight causes. There may be a simple straight fracture, or the base of the acetabulum may be shattered and broken up along the lines of union of the original bones. The fracture may occur alone, or may be complicated with a fracture of the innominate bone, and the head of the femur may or may not be displaced. It may occur at any age. The author related a case seen by him in which the patient had fallen sixteen feet, striking on the right hip. Upon examination, under ether, there was found a slight eversion of the foot, with no shortening, and it was stated that crepitus was present. Extension of a few pounds' weight was applied and afforded relief to the severe pain complained of. The following day another examination was made, and the same signs observed, except that no crepitus could be obtained. Some days later