

palpitation, dyspepsia, constipation, mastodynia, headache and giddiness. The action of the heart was rapid and irritable, but there was no organic disease.

A lady, about five weeks pregnant, suffered from an almost constant headache, and could not sleep well; was nervous, depressed, weak, dyspeptic and constipated. The pills corrected the state of the digestive apparatus, banished the pains and nervousness, and the patient progressed without special difficulty to the end of her term.—*Abstract of a paper by John V. Shoemaker, A.M., M.D., in the Medical Bulletin for May, 1893.*

Treatment of Post-Partum Hæmorrhage.—Dr. Ernest Herman, obstetric physician to the London Hospital, has published a paper on this subject. He says that in the treatment of post partum hæmorrhage nothing can be relied upon that does not ensure compression of the bleeding vessels. The chief precautions against the prevention of hæmorrhage are care not to extract child or placenta when the uterus is not contracting, and close supervision of the third stage of labour. The post partum hæmorrhage under discussion is the common kind, namely, that due to uterine atony. The modes of stopping bleeding after labour may be divided into three groups, according to their principal aims, which are: 1st, to make the uterus contract; 2nd, to compress the bleeding veins; 3rd, to clot the blood.

There are three ways of making the uterus contract, namely: direct stimulation, indirect stimulation, and drug stimulation. Direct stimulation, such as kneading with the hand outside, is almost always successful for the time, and in the slighter cases its repetition at intervals is enough. The second step is to pass the hand into the relaxed uterus. Not only does this stimulate the uterus, but by it we gain help in diagnosis and prevention. The business of the intra-uterine hand is to find out if there be anything in the womb which is causing bleeding; and, if there be, to remove it. Injection of hot water provokes contraction and does good by washing out loose clots, etc. Water in which the accoucheur can bear to immerse his hand will not injure the tissues. Cold water, or ice, or electricity may also be used. Reflex stimulation may suffice, through the nerves of the skin

by applying ice or cold to the vulva or abdomen, or of the breast by putting the child to the bosom. Drug stimulation is represented by one drug—the only one which produces uterine contraction and retraction—namely, ergot. Its chief uses are as a prophylactic, given immediately after the birth of the child; and after bleeding has stopped, to make tonic the contraction produced by other means. As regards the treatment of exhaustion of contractile power—the worst cases in these—pressure, or blood clotting, or a combination of both must be relied on. The injection of perchloride of iron stimulates the uterus to contract and clots the blood. The objections to this treatment are: first, that it is dangerous; and secondly, that it is not always successful.

Plugging the uterus with iodoform gauze, the new German treatment, may be dangerous; sudden death has taken place from the entrance of air into a uterine vein while the gauze was being put in. Continuous compression is the best and only remedy when the contractile power of the uterus is exhausted. There are various methods of employing it. The right way is to compress the uterus between one hand in the vagina and the other on the abdomen. The best way is to bend the fingers of the left hand into the palm, and grasp the uterine body between the right hand on the abdominal wall and the firm resisting surface formed by the closed fingers and volar prominences of the left hand in the vagina.—*Brit. Med. Journ.*

Nitroglycerine for Vomiting.—Humphries (*British Medical Journal*, No. 1683, p. 693) reports having employed nitroglycerine systematically for three years in all forms of vomiting encountered, with highly satisfactory results. In cases of gastric catarrh in the adult or in the infant, acute or chronic, dependent upon alcoholism or upon anemia, it acted almost as a specific. It also proved useful during pregnancy. In peritonitis alone it increased the vomiting, but the effect soon passed off. It proved of little value in the relief of the vomiting of pulmonary tuberculosis. In combination with catechu it acted well in several cases of henteric diarrhœa. The vomiting of influenza was also relieved by the use of the agent, which was in no instance attended by bad results.—*Medical News.*