

She recovered without any further puerperal trouble.

Here is a case in which I think we are justified in concluding that the morph., pot. bromid., chloral and bleeding did no good, and that when death seemed inevitable, pilocarpin was used with advantage. In this case, at any rate, I feel convinced it saved a life, acting first as a nerve sedative then relieving vascular tension and the convulsions, as well as secondly ridding the system, by the emunctories, of the uræmic poison. Dr. Barker protests against its use as a remedy in those cases, principally from its depressing effects, and because of the danger of smothering from the excessive bronchial flow during coma. Here was a case where coma was deep, yet she did not smother. If depression appears too marked have we not remedies at hand such as ether to control those depressing effects. Notwithstanding its condemnation by such high authority as Dr. Barker, I think it is a drug which, when used properly, should rank as one of the first in the treatment of puerperal convulsions.

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### Correspondence.

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#### OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

*From our own Correspondent.*

NEW YORK, Nov. 22nd.

M. Tarnier has devised an apparatus called a "Hatching Cradle." It consists of wood, sixty-five centimetres long, by fifty high, and thirty-six wide, with sides twenty-five millimetres thick. Inside the box is a partition which divides the incubator into two chambers. This partition is horizontal, so there is an upper and a lower chamber.

Dr. A. M Thomas, of the State Emigrant Hospital, has had one of the incubators made. A tank that is suspended in the lower chamber holds about fifteen gallons of water. The object of not fitting the tank tightly in lower chamber, but having it suspended in the middle, is that it gives a free circulation of air in this chamber. Between the main, inner and outer walls is a space of four inches, filled with sawdust, closely packed. Two tin tubes, one inch in diameter, connect the tank with a small cylindrical reservoir outside of box, from the top of which the tank is filled. The upper tube is exactly even with the top of the tank, and

the lower one some six inches below it. Beneath the tin reservoir an alcohol lamp supplies the heat. The cold water goes to the bottom of the tank, and the warm rises in the reservoir and passes through the upper tube into the tank. The cold water passes through the lower tube again until all the water is of a uniform heat. The water can be drawn from the tank by means of a faucet at the bottom. A small door, packed with sawdust, opens into the chamber where the child lies. This chamber has a temperature of ninety-five degrees, Fahrenheit. In the top of the incubator is a plate of glass one foot square. Looking through this the child can be seen.

As far as I know this is the first incubator made in this country, and it has proved a great success. On September 7th, 1888, there was a baby born, which, as near as could be ascertained, was not much, if any, over twenty-eight weeks, and weighed two pounds and thirteen ounces. In thirty-six hours it had lost ten ounces, and at this time was placed in the "hatching cradle." It was first fed on mother's milk, given to it with a dropper, then it began to improve, and showed an inclination to nurse, and a small nipple was placed in its mouth and mother's milk was dropped into the nipple, and it has made steady improvement, and at this writing it weighs four pounds four ounces and a half. There is every reason to believe that the child will continue to improve, and will soon be taken out of the incubator and the mother will nurse the child. The mother's milk has been kept flowing by letting her nurse a strong baby. This incubator is not convenient for private cases. In the first place it is too expensive, but it is very convenient for maternity hospitals, and I can safely say it is the best made at present.

There is a good deal of discussion among medical men at present, about what determines the sex. Prof. Charpentier says, that beyond the established facts, there is comparatively little known. One of the facts is, that the absolute or relative age of the parents had a real influence in producing a certain sex in embryo. When a man was ten years older than his wife, while she was still in the active period of production, there would be more boys than girls born to them, and also the parent that had the most energy determined the sex of the child. Bidder drew his conclusions after making a thorough investigation of a