

she did light work in the house. I decided not to interfere with the foetus. On May 21st I was again sent for and found her in labor. She gave birth to a dead child with a hydrocephalic head. She had no symptoms of eclampsia during her labor, and by using the antiseptic injections per vaginam she made a rapid recovery although the child had been dead some days.

I agree with Dr. Bertram Spencer, see CANADA LANCET, May 1892, that we must "narcotize the patient," but I think his $\frac{1}{2}$ grain doses of morphia only partially does the work. One grain of morphia to a woman suffering from puerperal eclampsia is not, I think, too large a dose if she is an ordinary healthy person.

BACTERIOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY E. B. SHUTTLEWORTH, TORONTO.

INFLUENCE OF SALIVA ON PATHOGENIC MICRO-ORGANISMS—Sanarelli (*Centrabl. f. Bakt. W. Paras.*, in *Brit. Med. Jour. Epit.*) finds human saliva to possess a bactericidal influence on several micro-organisms, but that its power depends on the number present. It is ineffectual against a large invasion, but a limited number of bacteria may be destroyed by being introduced into it. Of the species so affected may be enumerated, *staphylococcus aureus*, *streptococcus pyogenes*, *micrococcus tetragenus*, and the typhoid and comma bacilli. It is stated that *bacillus diphtheriae* ceased to thrive in human sputum, and that the virulence of *pneumococcus lanceolatus* (Friedlander) was thus lost. Although Sanarelli's experiments assert the toxic power of saliva over these organisms, it must not be forgotten that it is a question of proportion between saliva and bacteria. That the injection of a very small portion of human sputum containing some of these organisms—Friedlander's bacillus for example—will produce fatal effects in other animals is an experiment with which every student of bacteriology is familiar.

NEW METHOD FOR STAINING BACILLUS TUBERCULOSIS—P. Kaufmann (*London Lancet*) gives a process in which the employment of acid as a decolorizer is avoided, the effect being obtained by the use of hot water. Sputum is dried on the cover, fixed, and stained in Ziehl's carbol-fuchsin solution, in the usual manner. It is then placed for

about three minutes in water at 208° to 212° F., the cover being moved about until visible color is removed. It may now be examined and will present the same appearance as if treated with any of the acid decolorizers. A contrast stain—say methylene blue—may be applied, if desirable. This method may have an advantage in the preparation of permanent specimens.

DIFFERENTIATION BY STAINING IN THE EXAMINATION OF URINE—Dr. Charles Rice (*Am. Druggist*) says that he has received much assistance in the examination of certain fluids, especially urine, in the recognition and differentiation of various objects subjected to microscopical examination. As every one knows there is considerable difficulty in viewing a more or less transparent liquid, and it is only by a skilful manipulation of the light that colorless bodies can be distinguished. He takes advantage of the fact that many aniline colors have the property of dyeing vegetable or animal tissues, without mordants. The addition of one aniline color to urine will have the effect of coloring all organic structural material, such as epithelial cells, casts, bacteria, etc., while inorganic material, as urates, uric acid, phosphates, calcium oxalate, and the like will remain unstained. Of the various anilines tried Dr. Rice prefers a mixture of equal parts of "Hoffmann's violet, 4 B," and "brilliant green," dissolved in water—say two grains of each to the fluid ounce. Sufficient of this may be used to tint the urine. Experience will soon show the proportion best suited to the observer, or the material under examination.

LABELLING SLIDES DIRECTLY ON THE GLASS—The *Phar. Jour. and Trans.* contains an item to the effect that Professor Penhallow, of Montreal, has sent to the Royal Microscopical Society some slides illustrating his method of labelling. He writes directly on the glass, and, when dry, covers the writing with a protective coating of a very thin solution of Canada balsam, which would preferably be made by dissolving baked balsam in chloroform or benzole.

BACILLUS TYPHI MURIUM FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF FIELD MICE—Professor Loeffler's expedition against the field mice of Greece has proved very successful, the enemy being reported as annihilated, after a nine day's engagement. Peasants residing in Thessaly, in which crops were being destroyed,