

# Selections.

## SURGICAL HINTS.

Benign growths are so infrequent in children that any existing tumor is very likely to be malignant, and especially of a sarcomatous character.

Nasal catarrhs in children rarely affect the accessory cavities, although in infants the inflammation frequently extends to the eustachian tubes.

Frequent bathing of the penis in hot water greatly aids the use of injections in the treatment of acute gonorrhoea, and also materially promotes the comfort of the patient.

Pain during and after defecation in children may be due to anal fissure. In the case of older children the pain may lead them to avoid having a stool, and thus give rise to obstinate constipation.

Two of the most characteristic symptoms of pyloric stenosis in children are vomiting immediately or shortly after feeding and obstinate constipation. The feces also differ from the normal stools of infants in being dry, dark colored, and sometimes consisting of firm pellets.

Some cases of tuberculous of the kidneys are attended with so marked irritation of the bladder as to greatly obscure the diagnosis. Under these circumstances the case may be treated for a time as cystitis. In renal tuberculosis the urine, however, is generally acid, contains only small amounts of pus, and microscopic examination often reveals tubercle bacilli.—*International Journal of Surgery.*

### Superstition in Teratology.

The belief in maternal impressions affecting the fetus is vigorously attacked by E. T. Shelly, Atkinson, Kan. (*Journal A.M.A.*, January 26th). While the ancient notions regarding monstrous births, which he mentions have been given up by modern authorities, he quotes from a number of recent textbooks showing that the belief in maternal impressions is by no means entirely abandoned. It has, however, he says, only one argument in its support, that is, that of *post hoc ergo propter hoc*. Against this we have the scientific fact that the relation of the fetus to the mother is, not one of continuity, but simply