

Antitoxin in Diphtheritic Paralysis.

The rule is that the more severe the local manifestations of diphtheria the more extensive and lasting the subsequent paralysis. This is subject to marked exceptions; sometimes slight local involvement is followed by severe general paralysis. It has been stated that cases in which antitoxin is used have a larger proportion of paralysees than those in which it is not used. This is based on the observation that since antitoxin has been used the number of cases of diphtheritic paralysis has increased. This is readily explained by the lessened mortality. A larger number of the severe cases live to develop paralysis. A number of writers have reported improvement in cases of paralysis where antitoxin was used weeks after the local signs of the disorder had disappeared.—*Medicine*.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY.

IN CHARGE OF ADAM H. WRIGHT, K. C. McILWRAITH, FRED. FENTON AND
HELEN MacMURCHY.

Pyelitis in Pregnancy.

Cragin asserts that pyelitis, as a complication of pregnancy, is not so infrequent as has been supposed. He has seen ten cases of the affection in the past four years. The condition seems to depend on two factors: (1) Compression of a ureter by the pregnant uterus, and (2) infection of the urinary tract above the point of compression. The right kidney is most frequently involved. The symptoms are: Pain in the lumbar region; a rather sharp rise of temperature, not infrequently accompanied by rigors; irritability of the bladder; if the right side is involved the kidney can usually be made out enlarged and tender: the urine is acid, at first containing only a trace of albumin and perhaps a few casts, later pus cells, renal epithelium, and bacteria. The condition usually clears up without difficulty under appropriate treatment.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

Analgesia in Obstetrics.

T. Steinbuechel (*Brit. Gyn. Journal*, March, 1904) recommends the use of morphine and scopolamine hypodermically in doses of 0.01 gramme of the former and from 0.0003 to 0.0004 gramme of the latter—that is to say, 0.15 of a grain of morphine and from 0.0045 to .0006 of a grain of scopolamine. By this treatment he declares that the pain and suffering of the woman is much lessened, though her consciousness is not affected nor uterine activity diminished.