

## Abstracts

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### INDUCTION OF ABORTION.

F. Caruso (*Arch. di Ostet. e Ginec.*) describes the second case, in which he has induced abortion by means of curettage. In it, as in the first case, which he published in 1894, the indication for induction was hyperemesis gravidarum, but there was an additional necessity, consisting in the presence of pulmonary phthisis. There were also signs of metritis. Under chloroform the cervix was rapidly dilated with Küstner's dilators, the uterus was emptied by means of Rapin's curette and forceps, and iodine was applied to the uterine interior in the hope of curing the endometritis. In a few hours the vomiting had ceased as if by magic (*come per incanto*). On the following day the temperature began to fall, and the operation was soon quite recovered from; the pulmonary condition remained much the same. A list of about thirty-seven cases, in which this method of inducing abortion has been used by various obstetricians, is given, from which it seems there has been no maternal mortality. The indication has generally been hyperemesis, but it has also been undertaken for phthisis, for pelvic contraction of high grade, for syphilis, melancholia, septicemia, and hystero-epilepsy. Caruso contrasts it with the injection of glycerine into the uterus, the application of iodine to the interior of the uterus with a metallic sound, the introduction of a piece of solid nitrate of silver into the uterus along with the giving of ergot by the mouth, and the injection of tincture of iodine through a catheter right up to the fundus uteri. He believes that it excels all these methods; that, in a word, it is the procedure of election for forced extemporaneous induction of abortion in the first three months of pregnancy.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

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### SYMPTOMS AND DIAGNOSIS OF MEMBRANOUS COLITIS.

Membranous colitis is usually a primary disease (Boas, *Deutsche Med. Woch.*), though it may be a complication of appendicitis, cholelithiasis, intestinal sand formation, larvæ of flies in the colon, carcinoma of the ascending colon, and uterine diseases. It affects women more often than men, and consists in a peculiar catarrh of the colon, with a tendency to the formation of plastic casts. The disease described by Nothnagel as "colitis mucosa," which is characterized by paroxysmal attacks of colic, with the expulsion of mucous masses and the perfectly normal behaviour of the intestine between the attacks, is very rare. Even when these symptoms are present the cause is usually catarrhal colitis. Boas