

labor terminated normally, and the puerperal period was without complication.

In cases of this kind which occur where a trained attendant is not obtainable, a method employed by Betz, and described in the *Wiener med. chirurg. Centralblatt* for Nov. 26, 1886, will commend itself. Betz used a sandbag weighing five or six pounds, which afforded continuous pressure from a broad and perfectly applied surface. This was laid upon the projection formed by the head, and its position changed from time to time as the sensations of the patient indicated. In five hours the natural forces effected rotation, and the labor ended spontaneously.

These simple methods of aiding flexion and rotation at a period of labor when operative interference is difficult and dangerous are certainly worthy of consideration, especially when so serious a complication as uterine rupture is threatened.—*Med. News.*

ANTIFEBRIN.

From the reports in our German exchanges we notice that this new remedy has received an extensive trial, and the results so far seem to indicate that another valuable antipyretic has been added to our resources. Antifebrin is a neutral body prepared by heating aniline with acetic acid, and, when purified by successive crystallizations, it forms a white, odorless powder, with a sharp but not unpleasant taste. It is insoluble in cold water, but soluble in warm water or alcoholic fluids.

Cahn and Hepp, who introduced the drug, have been studying its effects in Kussmaul's wards at Strassburg, and in Nos. 1 and 2 of *Berliner klin. Wochenschrift*, 1887, give a full account of their observations based upon its use in sixty cases. It is given in doses of from five to fifteen grains. Eight grains is the usual dose, and it may be administered in warm water, or in a little alcohol or water, or in capsule. In larger doses it is not poisonous, and from sixty to ninety grains have been taken in the day without any ill effects. Fever patients rarely require more than thirty grains a day in divided doses. It is best to give a single dose of eight grains, to be followed, if

necessary, by smaller amounts, in order to keep down the temperature. The effect is usually manifest in an hour, and, as a rule, there is a reduction of from three to five degrees in as many hours. Sometimes the fall is more rapid, and within two hours there may be a drop of five or six degrees. Copious sweating is almost invariably associated with its action. Chills have not been observed. The drug is well borne by the stomach, and in no case caused nausea or vomiting. The duration of action is variable; but in the acute fevers, after four or five hours the temperature gradually rises again. The administration of smaller doses may check this tendency. In typhoid cases an improvement in the general condition was often noticed after its use, and the mind became clearer. In other instances the patients expressed themselves as more comfortable; and in no case was there the depression which is sometimes seen after the administration of antipyrin or thallin. The pulse is also reduced in frequency, and the secretion of urine increased. The authors doubt if antifebrin has any specific action in typhoid fever, but in acute rheumatism it seems to act like antipyrin, not only on the fever but also on the inflammation, reducing the swelling and relieving the pain.

We can confirm these observations on the use of antifebrin. We have found that it acts promptly in comparatively small doses, is easy to take, and is free from the unpleasant after-effects of some other antipyretics. It is a cheap drug, costing not half the price of antipyrin, and seems likely to prove a valuable addition to the pharmacopœia.—*Med. News.*

SPURIOUS VENEREAL DISEASES.—Mr. Jordan Lloyd, after careful study of the subject, arrives at the following conclusions concerning spurious venereal diseases:

1. That a large number of urethral discharges in the male, although sexual in their origin, are not specific.
2. That many penile sores of sexual origin are neither chancres nor chancroids.
3. That idiosyncrasy plays an important part in the contraction of venereal diseases of all kinds.—*Birmingham Medical Review.*