

At the present time, when physicians are anxious to learn all they can about the antitoxine, Dr. Krieger's little book on "Blood Serum Therapy," of which a review appears in another column, will prove interesting reading.

During the past month diphtheria has broken out in the Sick Children's Hospital, College Street, and in the Children's Shelter, on Adelaide Street. In both cases the disease has come into the institution from outside, and could not be accurately traced. This state of affairs should not exist if medical men did their duty in immediately reporting suspected cases to the health officer of the district. The spread of this disease in such a manner is simply evidence of criminal negligence on the part of someone, and we trust that the proper authorities will enforce the law to the utmost extent against medical practitioners neglecting to report immediately suspected cases of diphtheria, so that early and thorough prophylaxis and quarantine may be established.

The Treatment of Eclampsia.—Gubaroff (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*) recommends a mode of treatment that he has successfully employed in six cases of eclampsia, three of which presented grave symptoms. The treatment consisted in the administration of narcotics, principally morphin in moderate but frequently repeated doses (gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ subcutaneously about six times in twenty-four hours, according to the amount of urine); enemata of chloral, and only during operative procedures (including catheterization) mild chloroform-narcosis. All measures tending to stimulate the activity of the skin or to replace this vicariously were freely resorted to. These included warm baths, though but infrequently; moist warm packs constantly, and several times daily friction with a solution of vinegar, salt and alcohol, and dry hot-air baths. In all cases the bowels were freely evacuated as early as possible by means of salines (equal parts of sodium sulphate and magnesium sulphate). Besides, careful attention was given to the functions of the kidneys. These were stimulated by the administration of milk and mineral waters, and the application of heat in the lumbar region over the kidney by means of a large rectangular hot-water bag. Only in one case was bleeding practised.

Just as the crows and spring bonnets appear at Easter or thereabouts, so does that great bugbear to all medical students, the annual examination. For the last three weeks a large number (not quite so numerous as usual, but more numerous than the wants of the people in the medical line require) of our young male population and a small number of the female, have been enduring the ordeal. The papers, as far as we have seen, are fairly difficult, without being outrageous, and from our knowledge of the different examiners the marking will not be too slack. To those who obtain their pass at the examinations, we hold forth our congratulations on their ability and on their entrance into such a noble profession, but to tell the truth, we cannot congratulate any one on the prospects held forth to him by the emoluments to be gained in his practice. To parody the old proverb, that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," we might say, "All play and no work, and then all work and no pay, will make him a duller boy."

Phenomenal Premature Menstruation.—Mrs. W. B., a primipara, was delivered with the forceps of a girl on January 25, 1895, at noon. Five days later, or at the age of five days, January 30, 1895, at 2 p.m., the child began to menstruate, which caused much parental alarm, resulting in a second summons for me. Being absent, I failed to arrive until 6 p.m. On my arrival the nurse informed me that she had cleansed and powdered the parts well an hour previously. On examination I discovered the vaginal canal fairly well filled (in my mind) with undoubted menstrual blood, as it was traceable just as high up as I possibly could determine, without a particle of abrasion, irritation, injury, or inflammation along the vaginal canal whatever. Cessation of menstruation occurred some time during the following night. The breast and genital organs were remarkably well developed at birth, and created some comment among those present, also vivid impressions upon my own mind. Should this little phenomenon continue to have periodical catamenia, I will report the same. I might further say that the infant is beautifully developed in every respect and enjoys fine health. D. L. PEEPLES, M.D., in *N. Y. Med. Journal*.