

DIAGNOSIS OF PREGNANCY BY THE SHAPE OF URINARY PHOSPHATES.

Parke in *Am. Gyn. & Obstet. Jour.* finds as a result of his researches, when conception occurs, the triple phosphates in the urine change their form. They lose their feathery appearance, the change beginning at the tip and progressing towards the base. One side only may be affected, or both, leaving only the shaft and perhaps a few fragments adhering to it. The shaft assumes a beaded or jointed appearance. These changes commence within 20 days after conception, and are most marked in the early months and almost absent in the later months. When the death of the foetus occurs, the phosphates resume their normal appearance. This change in form of the urinary phosphates being recognizable very early, it is of the greatest value when other signs are of the least reliability or wanting. A diagnosis may be made without examining patient or her suspecting it.

CONSTANT IRRIGATION IN SEPTIC PUERPERAL CASES.

Gliakoff in the *Jour. de Med. Mil.* describes a method for the treatment of puerperal cases, by constant irrigation of the uterus with solutions of carbolic acid and permanganate of potash. A one p. c. solution of carbolic acid was first employed, and followed by a weak solution of permanganate of potash having a rose color. The irrigating fluid was kept at 104° F., and allowed to flow for six hours. The results were excellent. Only one patient out of twenty-eight thus treated died, and she was not treated until three weeks after labor, and had pyaemia.

ALBUMINURIA IN PREGNANT AND PUERPERAL WOMEN.

Dr. Eklund (*Edin. Med. Jour.*) believes that midwives' handbooks should call attention to the necessity for examining the urine of every pregnant woman. If the urine be found to contain albumin, the midwife should be competent to order hot baths, flannel underwear, rest in the recumbent posture, mild diuretics and laxatives, beef tea with parsley, seltzer water with boiling milk, milk food, boiled fruit, weak coffee, tea and chocolate, compound liquorice powder, etc. If this hygienic treatment does not within a certain time, say a month, cause a disappearance of the albumin, a physician should be called. It is a matter of great importance that the pregnant woman should learn to procure for herself daily evacuations of the bowels, especially towards the end of pregnancy and in the beginning of labor. For this purpose dietetic means