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### *Original Communications.*

#### GYNÆCOLOGICAL REPORT.

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Drunkenness at the moment of conception is the theme of a book written by Dr. Lentz of Tournai, France. After careful investigation it has been found that drunkenness at the time of conception is a principal cause of those nervous affections met with in infants. The writer says he finds the intelligence and moral sense of such children tainted with the influence of the vicious habit. Children born of parents drunk at the moment of conception generally died of convulsions or some other form of nervous disease, and if they lived at all were epileptics, idiots or imbeciles, with a tendency to indecency, immorality and general depravity. Such offspring when grown up have an aspect peculiar to the diathesis: the head is small, his physiognomy hebetudinous, and his gaze stupid and expressionless.

The evil effects resulting from conception at the time of intoxication is mentioned by old writers—Diogenes speaks of it, and Aristotle believed that a drunken mother would bear drunken children; Plutarch states the same thing. It is curious to note, in connection with this, that the Greek ruler Lycurgus made laws to favor drunkenness among the conquered tribes, in order to stifle their patriotism and encourage appetites that would tend to keep them slaves. In Carthage the laws forbade the use of any fluid but water on days of intended marital co-habitation.

The subject has not received the attention that its great importance merits. That there is much truth in the views enunciated by Dr. Lentz will scarcely be doubted by those who have given attention to this subject. I have known cases where but one child of a large family had any desire for alcoholic liquor, and that child had been nursed by a mother who took her beer while doing so.

#### GONORRHEA IN THE FEMALE.

Dr. Martineau of Paris has stated that in the specific form of this disease the pus is always acid while in the simple form alkaline. A piece of litmus will determine this. It is of value in cases of rape to determine whether or no the guilty party was affected with gonorrhœa, for then the discharge from the inflamed vulva would be acid.

#### SOFT UTERINE FIBROIDS.

Dr. Thos. Keith of Edinburgh in his "Contributions to the Surgical Treatment of Tumors of the Abdomen," gives a most interesting account of the history and treatment of one of these rare forms of fibroid of the uterus. The tumor had been diagnosed as ovarian by some of the most eminent gynæcologists of Germany, Italy and London. The tumor was first noticed in 1867. In 1872 Keith saw the case, and recognised the tumor as a soft fibroid, but, as the lady was 43 years of age, he discounted any operation—trusting to the menopause for arrest of the growth. During the following three years the tumor continued to grow slowly, when she fell heavily, striking a low railing. This was rapidly followed by ascites, and five or six gallons of fluid had to be removed every three weeks. At this time Dr. Keith repeated the puncture and