

the abdomen closed without drainage. He does not think Fowler's position effective in this class of cases, and fears the dangers of syncope. His after treatment consists in stimulation by strychnine, digitalis camphor and occasionally caffeine and nitroglycerine, combined with saline infusions. In cases of severe shock adrenalin is added and the foot of the bed raised. Vomiting is treated by lavage. Sufficient morphine is given to make the patient fairly comfortable. He is against early opening of the bowels, prefers to relieve flatus by the rectal tube, and waits until the fifth or sixth day before giving a purgative enema. Twenty-one cases have been operated upon with a mortality of 14 per cent.

W. L. B.

## MEDICINE.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF F. G. FINLEY, H. A. LAFLEUR AND W. F. HAMILTON.

WEICHARDT AND PILTZ. "The Aetiology of Eclampsia." *Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift*, Nov. 1906.

These authors state that a study of the mechanism of production of eclampsia and hay fever leads to the conclusion that each disease is the result of the formation of specific poisons from albumins, in the one case derived from placental albumin and in the other from the albumin of pollen. The serum obtained by injecting into rabbits placental cells or pollen grains, in each instance is not antitoxic but cytolytic, and cytolsins are formed which can break up homologous albumin molecules and liberate toxic groups or so-called endotoxins. It is Weichardt's belief that eclampsia is the result of the formation in the body of toxic substances resulting from the cytolysis of placental cells that enter the circulation, it being assumed that in these cases there is a deficiency in antiendotoxins or inhibiting bodies. By injecting into rabbits a specially prepared trituration of placental tissue the authors were able to satisfy themselves of the existence of such an endotoxin that appeared to present toxic components of two different types. The first of these was a hydrogel forming body which is therefore active in causing coagulation of blood, whereas the other more deleterious component has a specific affinity for the respiratory center, and when injected into animals promptly causes death through failure of this function. The authors also speak of their attempts to produce an artificial inhibitory body to be used as a prophylactic, in which they have been partially successful, though it does not appear that there is any immediate possibility of its being practically useful.—*New York Medical Record*.