

It is difficult to give definite figures as to the frequency of serious vomiting of pregnancy, since even the statements concerning the incidence of the ordinary morning sickness vary greatly. Thus Gardner states that the latter occurs in only 15 per cent. of pregnant women, while Giles, Gerst, and Horwitz noted it in 47 $\frac{4}{5}$, 66 $\frac{2}{3}$, and 84 per cent. of their cases respectively. My own experience leads me to believe that it is present in slightly more than one-half of all private patients. According to Pick and Lwow the pernicious type occurs about once in one thousand cases; but as their conclusions were drawn entirely from hospital experience, they do not necessarily give a correct idea as to its incidence in private practice, in which it would seem to be much more frequent. This is clearly shown by my own experience at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where only two out of 4,500 clinical cases suffered from serious vomiting of pregnancy, while I have seen ten cases during the past two years in my private and consultation practice.

It would also seem, as Horwitz first pointed out, that there is a marked variation in its incidence in different countries, as it occurs much more frequently in France, England, and America, than in Germany or Russia; a fact which may possibly be explained by the greater frequency of neurotic conditions among the inhabitants of the former countries. Indeed many competent German authorities, such as Hohl, Lomer, Frank, and Strassmann, have stated that they have never seen a case of vomiting of pregnancy end fatally; while in this country there is hardly a general practitioner of extensive experience, who has not had one or more cases in his own practice. It is likewise interesting to recall the fact that Anquetin stated that the condition had apparently become more frequent in France after the abandonment of universal venesection.

1. *Reflex Vomiting*.—This variety of vomiting may be due to the presence of abnormalities of the generative tract or ovum, which existed prior to the onset of pregnancy, or are coincident with it. Among such conditions may be mentioned:—

- (a) Abnormalities of the uterus, particularly displacements.
- (b) Certain cases of endometritis.
- (c) Ovarian tumors.
- (d) Abnormalities of the ovum, such as hydatidiform mole and certain cases of twin pregnancy.

The reflex character of the vomiting of pregnancy was recognized at an early period. Mauriceau attributed it to a sympathy between the uterus and stomach, as he believed that distinct nervous connections existed between the two organs.