

tation; more frequently, however, during parturition, than either before or after. It is not at all a common disease as statistics abundantly prove. "Velpeau did not meet with a single case in one thousand labours superintended by him at the Clinique. It is probable, however, that this proportion is too small; for, by consulting the statements furnished by Madame Lachapelle, Merriman, Ryan, Pacaoud de Bourgs &c., it appears that there was one case of convulsion in about two hundred deliveries. On the other hand, the practice of the principal accoucheurs of Great Britain would furnish one case of eclampsia in four hundred and eighty five labours nearly."

An attack of convulsions is frequently preceded by certain premonitory symptoms, which, when detected, should lead us to examine the condition of the urine, and endeavour to ward off the threatened evil. These symptoms may exist for a variable period before the coming on of the fit. The patient complains of uneasy feelings, a sort of malaise; and there is increased heat of skin and difficulty of respiration. The special senses are affected; flashes of light, *musæ volitantes* or *scintillæ* are seen; and there may exist partial or complete loss of sight: there may be, as well, *tinnitus aurium* or deafness. The principal diagnostic sign of eclampsia is an acute, circumscribed and fixed pain in the head, which generally resists all means adopted for its relief, and is accompanied by depression of spirits, by nausea, or even vomiting. *Olema* of different parts of the body is not unfrequent. It is more frequently observed in the feet and ankles, and in the labia majora, than in the face and upper extremities. When it occurs in the face, it is generally accompanied by increased heat of skin, redness of the cheeks, and injection of the conjunctiva. These *œlemata* sometimes disappear entirely on the approach of parturition, and they are not at all times connected with an albuminous condition of the urine. "According to M. Weiger, the comparative frequency of the prodromes differs according to the period at which the convulsions occur. Those which come on before labour, are, he says, preceded by symptoms in about 40 cases out of 100; those which appear during labour or the delivery of the after birth, have initiatory symptoms in 30 out of 100 cases; and those which are first manifested during the lying-in, have prodromes in about 20 per cent of the cases."

The phenomena attending a fit of convulsions, are too well known to require any notice at our hands, and we, therefore, prefer saying a few words in regard to treatment. We met in a recent number of the "British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review," a notice of a rather singular remedy in the eclampsia of children, of German origin, which illus-