

# Dominion Medical Monthly

And Ontario Medical Journal

Vol. XLV.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1915

No. 4

## Original Articles

### THE TREATMENT OF ECLAMPSIA\*

METHODS USED AT THE TORONTO WESTERN HOSPITAL  
OBSTETRICAL DEPARTMENT. EIGHT CONSECUTIVE  
CASES WITHOUT MATERNAL DEATH.

BY GORDON G. COPELAND, B.A., M.B.,  
Assistant Obstetrical Surgeon to the Toronto Western Hospital.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—*

Eclampsia is such a serious disease, and its manifestations are often so sudden and appalling, that I feel a very short review of some of the outstanding features of this pathological condition, and of its rational treatment from a practical standpoint, may be of service.

May I briefly mention some of the salient points about the disease that will help us to better understand the principles of treatment?

*Definition.*—Eclampsia is an acute toxemia occurring in pregnant, parturient and puerperal women. Jardine says it may also occur in the new-born children of these women.

The disease is generally manifested by tonic and clonic convulsions with loss of consciousness, frequently followed by coma. Convulsions are not always present.

*Frequency.*—It occurs in about 1 per cent. of women entering lying-in hospitals, but is subject to wide variations in different years, and in different institutions.

It is more frequent during the cold, changeable weather, and, to a certain extent, follows the incidence of acute nephritis due to climatic conditions. I might venture to suggest that certain epidemic diseases affecting the kidneys, such as scarlet

\* Read before the Section on Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Medical Association at Peterborough, Ontario.