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Original Articles.

No paper published or to be published elsewhere as original, will be accepted in this department.

*** PUERPERAL ECLAMPSIA.**

By Dr. C. J. O. HASTINGS, Toronto.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I am not presuming for a moment to present anything new to you to-night. The few crude notes which I have in my hands are certainly not worthy of the dignity of being called a paper. I simply propose to open a discussion on what, to my mind, is the most serious complication of labour or pregnancy, in order that we may exchange ideas in regard to its etiology and treatment, for to wrestle with death in the lying-in chamber is perhaps the most trying ordeal we are called upon to pass through.

Etiology.—The microbic origin of the condition is not by any means satisfactorily established, though it has several advocates. Blanc inoculated a pregnant rabbit with cultures which he had made of a short bacillus which he had taken from the blood and urine of a pregnant woman suffering from albuminuria. She died in twelve hours in severe convulsions. I think, however, with our present knowledge of the subject, we will all agree that the seizures are of a toxæmic origin, or probably I had better say neuro-toxæmic.

What role albuminuria plays in these cases I am not prepared to say, but we must accept the presence of albumen as a valuable danger-signal indicating a probable defective elimination of toxins by the kidneys. While the kidneys play the most active part in the elimination of toxins from the system, yet we can't overlook the part played by the liver and bowels. What is the cause of albuminuria in pregnancy? It can hardly be mechanical, or, if so, why do we not have it in the case of all abdominal tumors? It can

* Read at Meeting of Toronto Medical Society.