

previous attack of endocarditis had injured the mitral valve, and so afforded a nidus for the organisms circulating in the blood. There was nothing, however, in the previous history or in the post-mortem appearances to point to such an attack.

Infective endocarditis occurring in the course of scarlet fever is very rare. Out of 1,500 cases treated at this hospital, no previous case has been observed.—ARNOLD W. W. LEA, M.D., B.S., in *Manchester Medical Chronicle*.

How to Ascertain a Twin Pregnancy.—

It is best done by abdominal palpation and auscultation.

In twin conception, on uncovering the woman's abdomen, one can at once notice the considerable dimensions of the uterus, the irregularity of its shape, a depression, even a sulcus, crossing obliquely the abdominal walls.

This sulcus is always present when the two fetuses are lying obliquely above the other, as generally happens. But it does not exist when the fetuses are one in front of the other.

By abdominal palpation, the diagnosis is easy in the first instance, but difficult in the other instance.

At any rate, palpation at once reveals the great volume of the uterus and its irregular shape. But its tension, on account of a greater amount of amniotic fluid, renders the diagnosis more difficult, as the foetal parts are not so well defined.

By palpation it can be ascertained that in twin pregnancy the large foetal tumors are double, for instance, one head can be found near the superior strait, the other at the fundus of the uterus; and one back, in an oblique and inferior direction.

In other instances, there may be found two breeches, two backs, and only one head in one of the iliac fossæ: the other head, being concealed in the excavation, can be found by the vaginal touch only. This is a very delicate point in obstetric diagnosis.

Auscultation will generally much assist in ascertaining the beat of two hearts at different points.—*Boislaniere, American Gynecological Journal*.

Tapeworm.—Dr. Duhomeau (*Med. Ncuigkeiten*, No. 22, 1893) finds the addition of chloroform to greatly increase the efficacy of extract of male fern. This is of practical value, as grave symptoms of

poisoning have been observed after the ingestion of large doses of male fern. He speaks highly of the following:

R Etheral extr. male fern gms. 1.2
(gtts. xviii).
Chloroform gms. 3.6
(gtts. l).
Castor oil gms. 4.8
(5j).
Croton oil gtt. 1.2

Sufficient for one treatment.

—*Lancet-Clinic*.

Therapeutics of Damiana.—The therapeutics of damiana seems to have progressed from the merely empirical stage to a point where it can be prescribed with something like scientific accuracy. Though slower in action, it is analogous to strychnia in effect, but more tonic than the latter. On the bowels it acts to promote increased peristalsis, causing one or two mushy stools per day, and it is an effective remedy in the habitual constipation of neurotic subjects, especially of those who are victims of sexual perversion. Increased diuresis follows its use, and many cases of irritable bladder and urethra are very greatly benefited by it. On the heart, also, it acts as a tonic sedative, equal, in some cases of functional disturbance, to Cactus Grandiflorus. From the above résumé, it is plain why damiana has proven so efficacious in cases of nerve-exhaustion resulting from sexual excesses, and why, far from being a direct stimulant of erotic desires, it has been found to act as a sedative to abnormal sexual appetite. In short, it is not a "specific," but its so-called specific action is but the result of its general tonic effect.—*Cleveland Medical Journal*.

Two Cases of Cocaine Susceptibility.—

No. 1. Young man, florid, stoutly built, healthy and robust, farmer. Operation for stricture of lachrymal duct. Had used about one-half of the contents of small dropper, which held about thirty-five drops of four per cent. cocaine solution. While waiting a moment, attention was called to the patient by his drawing a deep, sighing respiration, then falling to the floor in a dead faint. Gave half glass of whiskey, and in a few moments he recovered, but was in a dazed condition for half an hour.