

A FEW POINTS IN OBSTETRICS.—No branch of a physician's practice requires more self-poise, where so many complications arise, commanding our sympathy and demanding our skill, than that of obstetrics, and when disease and death follow a normal case of labor, the cause can be traced to none other than to ignorance or mismanagement, *Med. Rev.*

With these preliminary remarks, Ewing advances a few aphorisms relating to obstetrics.

1. Examine the urine a week or so before the expected confinement. Albumin need not cause alarm, unless present in large quantity, in which case the woman should be restricted to milk diet, given one-tenth grain of sulphate sparteine four times a day, and bowels kept open with cream of tartar, the object being, of course, to relieve congestion of the renal veins.

2. Make no digital examination without first cleansing the hands and nails, together with the external genitals, with a solution of bichloride of mercury (1 to 2,000) and ethereal soap.

3. Empty the rectum thoroughly with an injection of warm water.

4. Make as few examinations as possible during progress of labor, and each time dip the hand first in the antiseptic solution.

5. If the presenting part emerges slowly from the womb, do not allow your impatience to so get the better of your judgment as to induce you to "assist nature" by pulling upon the os. Probably all the deep pathological tears, calling for surgical interference, found on the right and upper anterior sides of the cervix, are caused by the finger of the accoucheur.

CONCEPTION.—The menstrual cycle, if it may be so termed, consisting of 28 days, usually, and embracing time of menstrual flux and intervening days, may be divided into two periods, viz., a genetic and an agenetic period. *Med. Brief.* The genetic period embraces the first 18 days of the menstrual cycle. During this period conception is most likely to occur. If conception occurs within the first third of this period, the parental vigor being equal or nearly so, the child will be a girl; but if conception occurs within the last third the child will be a boy. Within the second third, the earlier or later the period in which conception occurs will govern the sex approxi-

mately. The agenetic period embraces from the 19th day to the close of the menstrual cycle. Within this period conception rarely occurs.

IN the after-treatment of a case where an operation for the relief of an impermeable occlusion of the œsophagus of five years standing had been performed, which operation was reported at length in the *N. Y. Med. Jour.*, of March 23rd, 1895, Dr. Augustus C. Bernays, A.M., M.D., Heidelberg, M.R.C.S. Eng., Professor of Anatomy and Clinical Surgery at the Marion-Sims College of Medicine, the operating surgeon, says: "The patient rallied fairly well after the operation, but she became greatly emaciated. Liquid food was given at short intervals and stimulants as indications demanded. In order to allay the extreme nervousness and irritability, antikamnia was given and it acted promptly and satisfactorily in every instance." Of the further history of the case it may be stated that on the seventh day after operation, the patient took into her stomach through the natural channel the first food which had passed it in five years; and that in two months convalescence was regarded as fully established.

ANTISEPTIC POWDER.—The *N. Y. Med. Jour.* gives the following:

R—Hydrarg. chlorid. corros. . . . gr. 1-5.
 Ac. borici. ʒi.
 Ac. tannici. gr. x.
 Sacch. lactis. ad ʒiii.

Mix sublimate gradually and thoroughly with the sugar, then add the rest. Useful where iodoform is usually employed.

TO LUBRICATE CATHETERS.—The Paris correspondent of the *Lancet* says that Professor Guyon, of the Necker Hospital, uses the following formula, *Virginia Med. Monthly*:

R—Bichloride of mercury . . . gr. j.
 Glycerin } āā ʒij.
 Water }
 Powered soap ʒiv.—M.

This ointment is claimed to be unirritating to the urethra, and to possess greater lubricating power than either oil or glycerin.

DIABETES.—In *Gazette Degli Ospitali*, Doctor Leoni reports great satisfaction from the use of Jambul. He declares that the drug contains an active principle which, while not specific, is yet capable of neutralizing the diabetic process in individual cases.