

appearance of pathological conditions in these organs after death, where death results soon after the eclamptic attack. At most, a condition of fatty degeneration is seen. McEwen, of Cornell, has gone so far as to state that he has never performed an autopsy in either a case of the toxæmia of pregnancy or the pernicious vomiting of pregnancy but he has found this fatty degeneration of the liver.

The following table is the result of several years' work upon the urine of pregnancy, done with the view of obtaining clinical data that would be useful in the early diagnosis of toxæmia:—

	Normal non-pregnant woman.	Healthy pregnant woman.	Pregnant doubtful cases in which albumin develops with nervous symptoms.
Quantity .....	1100 cc.	1350 cc.	655 cc.
Specific gravity .....	1021	1022	1022.8
Urea .....	20.5 grms.	18.08	12.38
Phosphoric acid .....	2.6	1.95	1.46
Total solids.....	53.7	71.2	34.51

Now, what conclusions are we to draw from these figures? If we consider the condition as an irritation of the liver and kidney causing a functional paralysis, we come to these clinical facts that the poison, whatever it is, whether urea, or a product of liver insufficiency, or some enzyme found in the placenta, starts up an irritation of the liver and secondarily in the kidney, and causes a functional paralysis of the organs and the first thing to be affected is the excretion of water. The water seems to be unable to pass and we have then a retardation of the usual excretion of water. That accumulates sometimes to an enormous extent. Next, we have the urea held back and acting as an irritant to the kidney, and the phosphoric acid also to a small extent is held back. The enormous quantity of total solids that are retained shows that here we have a leading cause. These are not able to get into solution on account of the small quantity of water passing through. Is it right when we have a kidney functionally unable to excrete water, to add more water? This is where the mistake is made in some of these early cases. One of my cases shows this very nicely. I examined the urine about the beginning of September and found the total quantity to be, 769 c.c., the specific gravity 1030, the urea 16.14 gm, and the total solids 53.75 gm. The percentage of urea was fairly high, but the total quantity was somewhat diminished but not markedly. On the 23rd of that month I again examined the urine and found, quan-