

vegetables, etc. Drugs are of little or no use, except to relieve symptoms, and no drug is known which has any lasting effect in lowering the blood pressure. The nitrites, used with discretion, serve a useful purpose in relieving headaches and other symptoms. Sir Clifford Albutt has recommended the employment of "high frequency," and considers it worth further trial. There seems to be no doubt, however, that if it is to do good a current of sufficient amperage must be used. Machines giving a current of only 300 mille ampers are useless for this purpose, and I am informed many machines on the market do not develop as much as 100 m.a. Dr. Stewart has been treating some cases for me, and has been using a current of 1,000 mille amperes or over. So far we have only had a few cases under this treatment, and although their number is too small on which to base any definite opinion, the results have been encouraging, and I think undoubtedly worth continuing. This seems to be the only sort of "fancy treatment" that has given any prospect of improvement, although many have been tried—galvanism, baths, aerated and still, etc.

It appears established that if the case comes under proper treatment at a sufficiently early stage, cure may be expected, although a relapse may occur and call for a second course of dieting, etc.; when, however, the case is only seen in a later stage, cure is impossible, although considerable amelioration may follow suitable treatment, and a fatal end perhaps be postponed.

In conclusion, may I say that an attempt has only been made to outline roughly the principal features of a disease, which hardly seems to be receiving the attention its importance or its frequency deserves, especially in view of the fact that if untreated it is inevitably fatal, whilst in its early stages it is curable.—Selected from *Med. Jour. South Africa*.

THE TOXEMIAS OF PREGNANCY.

Elmer S. Waring, M.D., Florence, S.C.

THE obstetrical aspect which it is my lot and privilege to discuss with you gentlemen this evening is that of the toxemias of pregnancy. I feel not a little at a loss inasmuch as it has been my experience only to have the opportunity to care for a few cases of pernicious vomiting of pregnancy while one year on the East Medical Service of the Massachusetts General Hospital. A man who has not served as house officer at an obstetrical hospital or who has not suffered the hard knocks of his own mistakes through years of practice is not very apt to speak feelingly on this subject. Perhaps some of you, falling in the latter category will warm up to the discussion.