

operating. The stimulant acts primarily by bracing up the vascular system, and secondarily by increasing the resisting power of the nervous system. If this precaution be taken, and the injection be given rapidly and without undue exposure or chilling of the surface, rigors and fever will rarely follow. In very nervous, excitable patients, or where there is likely to be pain, ether may be advisable.

During the more severe methods of intra-uterine treatment, such as curetting or brushing (*écouvillonnage* of *Dolérís*), the placental site is apt to be disturbed; some of the little plugs may be scraped or brushed away from the mouths of vessels, permitting the entrance of air, fluid or septic matter. Curetting or brushing should be followed at once by a small douche of very hot water given very slowly and carefully; a suppository of iodoform should then be passed into the uterine cavity and the vagina loosely packed with a strip of iodoform gauze.

Dr. BLACKADER said he would like to ask the reader of the paper under what circumstances he now advised curetting, and whether he would perform this operation whenever there were any septic symptoms present. He thought that injections should not be too hot, for he had seen serious symptoms follow the employment of very hot injections; peritonitis even had resulted from the injection of plain hot water.

Dr. WM. GARDNER related an instance illustrating the dangers of vaginal injections with improper syringes. The case was that of a lady whom he attended during the past summer for a violent attack of pelvic peritonitis. She had been for some months suffering from pelvic symptoms, and on one occasion proceeded to take a vaginal injection with the ordinary syringe; but having mislaid the vaginal pipe, she used the rectal pipe with a single aperture at the end. The vagina was lax and the perineum and cervix lacerated. She had no sooner begun than she was seized with violent pelvic and abdominal pain with symptoms of collapse, speedily followed by vomiting, fever, and all the other symptoms. She was in bed for four or five weeks, and was for a time in great danger. There can scarcely be a doubt that the water was forced directly into the uterine cavity through the open cervix.

Dr. RODDICK said he was cognizant of not a few cases where serious results had followed the use of bichloride of mercury injections. He

thought Condly's Fluid a safer antiseptic. But best of all is hydronaphthal; it has germicidal qualities nearly equal to bichloride of mercury, but no odor or irritating qualities, and there is no danger of poisoning.

Dr. MILLS thought that the untoward results sometimes following vaginal and uterine injections were to be explained through the impressions directly made on the nervous system as well as by absorption of the fluid used. This being the case, the good effects of the stimulant, given as Dr. Cameron recommended, prior to the injection were probably owing to its acting by lessening the susceptibility of the nerve centres to any sort of afferent impressions. He doubted whether the effect on the circulation was not rather favorable than otherwise to absorption. Dr. M. wished to know whether there was any exact evidence bearing out the belief that fluids were more readily absorbed from the vagina than the uterus after parturition. It is scarcely what would be expected.

Dr. CAMERON, in reply, stated that the value of curetting, in suitable cases, is unquestionable, viz., where portions of the placenta are retained; the brushing out of the uterus would not, in all cases, replace curetting. The danger of absorption is greater through the vagina than the uterus, as the former is always more or less abraded, and also because the injected fluid, owing to the greater tendency of the vagina to sacculate, remains longer in contact with the absorbing surface. He had written this paper as a protest against the indiscriminate and careless use of injections in the puerperal state.

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

The disadvantages under which a correspondent labors, when he attempts to write a letter upon general topics connected with medicine, is that he is certain, in the case of a very large medical centre like New York, to give a one-sided view or review of his subject. Perhaps the fact that my time here has been chiefly devoted to the consideration of certain special branches may however make it more easy to speak with authority about them. To begin with, it seldom strikes a visitor to this city that in extent, population and wealth (consequently in variety and amount of disease