

sodium appeared to give much benefit, I combined the two with good effect. It is but seldom the bowels are opened too freely by it, the cases above referred to being the only ones I have so far observed.—*Dr. H. T. Goodwin, in New York Medical Journal.*

PERNICIOUS ECLAMPSIA.

At a recent meeting of the Imperial Royal Medical Society of Vienna, Professor Gustavus Braun reported a remarkable case which he had the opportunity of observing at his clinic, during the month of March of the current year. A woman, twenty-eight years old, who had already been confined twice, and frequently suffered from peculiar spasmodic attacks, was, on March 17, admitted into his clinic in an unconscious condition. She was then in the seventh month of pregnancy, and suffered with typical eclamptic attacks. The patient was exceedingly pale, with slow respiration; pulse, 68; she foamed at the mouth, and had bitten her nether lip. There was much albumin in the urine, and a few casts. As labor had already begun, and the cardiac sounds of the child could not be heard any longer, rapid delivery of the woman by operation was determined upon. The child was extracted, the placenta artificially displaced, and artificial respiration practiced upon the patient. Death, nevertheless, occurred, owing to pulmonary oedema. Dr. Paltauf reported on the results of the *post-mortem* of this interesting case. A great quantity of liquid blood was found in the abdominal cavity; the hepatic capsule was detached by a layer of blood. The liver was enlarged throughout; the hepatic tissue was yellow, and pervaded by small blood extravasations. Interstitial nephritis, cerebral oedema, and general anæmia were, moreover, present. The blood was unusually liquid. Dr. Paltauf mentioned some similar recent observations, and quoted the publications of Virchow, of the years 1881 and 1882, on cases of poisoning with sea-mussels, in which similar changes of the liver as in the case above mentioned were found to be present. Dr. Braun excluded poisoning with phosphorus and the presence of pathogenic bacteria, and arrived at the conclusion that they had to deal with a peculiar case

of pernicious eclampsia, which was probably due to poisoning. In such cases the chemical poison entered the intestine and the liver; it afterward gave origin to a capillary phlebitis, stasis, blood extravasations, and even to partial necrosis of the tissue. As nephritis was present in all these cases, an elimination of the poison could not take place, and rapid death, for this reason, invariably occurred. The detachment of the hepatic capsule and the hemorrhage into the abdominal cavity were to be explained by the changes of the liver and the results of the artificial respiration.—*Medical Press and Circular.*

THE USE OF ANTIPYRINE DURING LABOR.

Although it is written, "In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children," it is the laudable aim of the obstetrician of to-day to mitigate, in so far as he is able, the pangs of childbirth. The means to this end to which we may resort without damage to either the mother or the child are few in number, and the most valuable of all justly finds its chief rank after the completion of the first stage of labor. . . . The excellent results yielded me by antipyrine in dysmenorrhœa and other affections where it is a question of nerve pain, have led me during the past year to test it during the first stage of labor, and my results have been sufficiently gratifying to justify me in asking other obstetricians to try the drug. Possibly it has been similarly used by others, but if such be the case I have seen no record of their experience. My habit in regard to the administration of the drug is to give fifteen grains well diluted, and preferably with some stimulant, such as the aromatic spirits of ammonia, and to repeat the dose in one hour thereafter. In two hours after the second dose the patient receives ten grains, and so on every two hours if needed. The chloral mixture I administer, as has always been my custom, in fifteen-grain doses every three-quarters of an hour till three to four doses have been received. The result of this combination has been to nullify the pains so much as to be in two instances scarcely perceptible, and in others simply uncomfortable. The progress of labor has not been at all interfered with, and neither the