

if the urgency of the case has steadily increased in 12 hours from the time when the diagnosis was made, an operation will probably be called for. After two attacks the patient is sure to have a third, and each attack renders operation more difficult and dangerous. All the advantages lie with operation between the attacks. In an operation during an acute attack the prognosis is worse. In operating between the attacks it is rarely safe to do so in less than two weeks after an acute attack. McBurney was formerly more willing to operate during the attack than he is now. The chief cause of death is delay of one sort or another. In abscess cases the sooner we operate the better.

GYNÆCOLOGY.

IN CHARGE OF

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THE EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF PREGNANCY.

Dr. Gardner of Baltimore has an interesting paper on this important subject in the Jan. *American Journal of Obstetrics*. He points out that pregnancy can usually be diagnosed at the end of eight weeks, the cessation of menstruation, by the breast signs, morning sickness, the softening of the cervix, the enlargement of the abdomen, the cystic condition of the uterus, and the color of the vagina. The bronzing of the nipple he found infallible in those who had never borne children, but unreliable in multiparæ. The papillæ fairly reliable; the presence of milk only reliable in those who had not borne children. Morning sickness may be due to displacement of the uterus or to salpingitis. When due to pregnancy the characteristic time for its appearance is the day upon which the first missed period would have fallen. But he only found it present 13 times in 75 early pregnancies. Cessation of the menses although not always present was the most reliable symptom, occurring fifty out of seventy-five times. But about one-third of all pregnant women continued to menstruate for one or more months after becoming pregnant, while on the other hand a good many women ceased to menstruate without being pregnant. The discoloration of the vagina due to distended veins was found in fifteen out of seventy-five cases. Gardner says that he had never seen it in any other condition except pregnancy. This is important. In a case which was sent to me a distance of a thousand miles with a fibroid tumor to be treated by electricity, I was struck by the marked purple color of the