

MOTHERS LOST—FROM WHAT CAUSE.		HEMORRHAGE.	
Puerperal Convulsions,	4	Accidental Hemorrhage,...	7
Do. Peritonitis, 7 Cases, deaths,.....	4	Post Partum,.....	2
Other Causes, .....	6	Unavoidable, .....	1
Total No. of Deaths,.....	14	Total No. of Cases,...	10

  

AGES OF PATIENTS.			
From 15 to 20 years, .....	111	From 30 to 35 years,.....	131
From 25 to 30 years, .....	290	Over 40, .....	11
From 35 to 40 years, .....	40	Total, .....	994
From 20 to 25 years, .....	405		

ART. XIII.—*Strychnia*. Being extracts from the *Materia Medica Prize Essay*, of the Session 1856-57, McGill College. By Mr. ALEXANDER REID, London, C. W.

(Continued from page 120.)

ANTIDOTES.—(After describing the antidotes ordinarily mentioned, as astringents, conia, chlorine, &c., Mr. R. asks—)

*Does Iodine act as a Physiological Antidote?* To test this I gave to a kitten  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a grain dissolved in acetic acid, and very soon afterwards, almost immediately, I gave about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a drachm of the ioduretted solution. It died in the usual time, about 10 minutes, notwithstanding the antidote, and the symptoms under which it laboured were exactly the same as in every other case.

From this I would conclude that its action, as an antidote, was but very slight, if any, at least as a physiological agent. And, secondly,—

*Does Iodine act as a Chemical Antidote?* It might be thought that the ioduretted precipitate, from its insolubility in almost every menstruum, would be just what is required, and the former experiment explained by saying that the strychnia was not acted on by the antidote, and hence the failure. To satisfy this doubt, I precipitated the alkaloid from its solution by iodine, collected, washed and dried it. I gave the compound in a dose of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a grain, rolled up inside of a piece of meat. The spasms came on in the usual time, and with usual severity, and proved fatal. On examination of the stomach, I found about  $\frac{2}{3}$  still rolled up in the piece of meat as given, and the remainder was scattered around the cardiac orifice of the stomach, apparently unacted on, as the colour and continuity was not injured. From this experiment I should conclude it was no chemical antidote.

Bromine next comes under observation, and I will not examine it more than as the precipitated product obtained by adding it to a solution of strychnia.