

women. In the latter no connection with pregnancy or parturition could be found, as was stated to be in Gussierow's case. Nor could the cause in any case be ascribable to unhealthy occupations, privations as Bierner believes, nor to hereditary disposition. One patient only stated that the exertions during vigils with a sick sister and grief over her decease were the probable cause. The author conjectures the origin of the disease to be in a faulty formation of the red corpuscles, and opposes the hypothesis that their mere transformation is the cause; for in this disease the nutrition of the tissues is rather increased than diminished. For the purpose of exact diagnosis the author emphasizes the counting of the red corpuscles and by differential diagnosis between it and other oligocythaemic conditions, severe cases of chlorosis. In one case transfusion, but without success, was tried, nor did other methods of treatment avail. The prognosis is, therefore, most unfavorable.

A CASE OF PUERPERAL FEVER CURED BY BENZOATE OF SODA.*

Centralblatt March, by Dr. Petesen in Gravenstein.—As there is no case known to me in medical literature of puerperal fever treated by benzoate of soda I send the following short account of one: A primipara; æt. 25, twelve days after confinement was taken with puerperal fever. There was severe perimetritis on right side and slight at the fundus uteri with great pain and meteorismus. Diarrhœa, pulse 140-150, temperature 104. After use of 15.0 ($\frac{3}{4}$ ss) salicylate soda, temperature came down to 101.4, but followed by dangerous collapse, great dyspnoea, and increased meteorismus. After diligent use of wine and strong beer the pulse returned and then quinine was ordered every two hours. This was followed by such ringing in the ears it was changed to 7.5 (3 ij) salicylate soda in two evening doses. Then as an experiment only 15 grains was given and the temperature again reached 104, while the pulse was not lessened in frequency. Then 5.0 (3 j gr. 15) salicylate soda was ordered in a single dose and next morning there was again collapse, and again life was saved by wine. Then I ordered, upon Schüller's recommendation of benzoate of soda in septic infection of all kinds, a solution having the strength of 10.0 to 200.0 ($3\frac{1}{2}$ to f $\frac{3}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$) a tablespoonful to be given every hour. The pulse sunk to 130, the temperature still 104, but the dyspnoea had disappeared and the general condition of patient was better. The meteorismus had gone, perhaps from the application of 30.0 ($\frac{3}{4}$ j) unguentum mercuriale made in three days, probably however from the effects of the benzoate soda. The temperature fell then to 103.7, the pulse to 120, and

the patient slept. I must here add that before the use of the benzoate soda, quantities of sordes were developed on the lips and tongue and decubitus had set in. These complications began to heal immediately upon beginning the benzoate soda, and entirely disappeared upon continuing the same with the conjoined use of borax and ungt. plumbi as an application. I increased the dose of the benzoate to 15.0 to 200.0 ($\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ to f $\frac{3}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$) which caused the temperature to fall to 101.3 and the pulse to 104 while the patient suffered no inconvenience. I should not like to draw conclusions from one almost hopeless case although it turned out so well, but I should like to recommend a more extended trial of the benzoate of soda in "lying in" troubles.

LOCAL USES OF TANNIN.

Dr. G. P. Hachenberg, *New York Medical Record*, reports several cases of the use of this remedy in prolapsus uteri, where other means had failed to afford relief. His method is as follows: A glass speculum is introduced into the vagina, so as to push the uterus into its place. Through the speculum a metallic tube or syringe, with the end containing about thirty grains of tannin, is passed. With a piston the tannin is pushed against the uterus, the syringe withdrawn, and the packing neatly and effectually completed with a dry probang, around the mouth and neck of the womb. After the packing is completed, the probang is placed against the tannin, in order to hold it, and the speculum is partially withdrawn. The packing is now fully secured, and the instrument removed.

The application of tannin holds the uterus firmly and securely in place, not by dilatation of the walls of the vagina, but by corrugating and contracting its parts. At first the application may be made weekly; finally, but once or twice a month. It not only overcomes the hypertrophy and elongation of the cervix, but even, the writer thinks, induces a slight atrophy of the parts. As a remedy for leucorrhœa, where the seat of the inflammation is at the mouth of the womb, or within the vagina, it actually gives speedy relief. The doctor also reports a case of chronic ulceration of the rectum which was cured after a few weekly packings of tannin. He has found, moreover, that, in affections of the throat, direct applications of tannin to the diseased parts gives satisfactory results. In a case of extraordinary hypertrophy of the tonsils, preparatory to the operation of extirpation, tannin mixed with tincture of iodine to the consistency of syrup, was applied with the effect of so diminishing the hypertrophy that a surgical operation will, in all probability, not be necessary.

No remedy has given such satisfactory results in certain forms of chronic ophthalmia.

* Benzoate of Soda comes in needle shaped crystals soluble in water and of a sweet, penetrating taste. Benzoic acid and its salts change uric into hippuric acid and the union of the latter with inorganic bases is soluble. Therefore Benzoate of Soda has been recommended in uric acid diatheses.—[Translator]