

effects in from 15 to 45 minutes, reaching full physiological action in from one to four hours. There is a wide variance in the action of drugs given when labor is in progress; not only are the factors of absorption and elimination significant but the character of the labor, with the mental and nervous temperament, will have much to do with the results obtained. In considering the use of drugs producing tonic contraction, the weight of opinion among obstetricians of large experience is against their use until the uterus is empty. It is important to remember that quinin, cimicifuga and like drugs should not be given in small doses, as the result will be lessened reflex activity. Ten grains of quinin, for example, should be administered early enough to secure the full effect. A more thorough understanding of the therapeutic value of drugs to assist labor

doubtless restrict their use, as labor is intended to be a normal process.

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