

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Dr. Credé says that he has treated over three hundred new-born children in the following way:—Immediately after the first washing, the eyes are dried with a clean rag, and one drop of a 2 per cent. solution of nitrate of silver put into each, with a small glass tube. Not one of these children became affected with ophthalmia, notwithstanding that many were born in unfavourable conditions. He shows that nitrate of silver is the best preventive remedy, and praises it warmly. —*Wien. Med. Woch.*

Prof. Spaeth, of Vienna, performed Cæsarean section and sewed up the uterine wound with five deep and four superficial catgut stitches, largest size of Lister's antiseptic chromic acid ligature. The woman died forty-eight hours after of peritonitis. The autopsy was surprising in its revelations. Every catgut suture in the uterine tissue was found untied and straightened out while the wound was open and gaping, the lochial discharges having escaped into the peritoneal cavity. The original knots in the catgut had been tied with especial care by Prof. Weinlechner. —*Philadelphia Medical Times.*

Dr. T. Halbertsma, "On the Etiology of Puerperal Eclampsia," in *Wien. Med. Woch.*, says that all previous observations on the cause of eclampsia are giving way, and seeks for a new clear foundation. He has now for an entire year declared that puerperal eclampsia might be caused by the pressure which the ureters receive from the side of the extending uterus. This hypothesis then met with contradiction; this could not be the exciting cause, as we do not meet with eclampsia in ovarian tumours. Whereupon he attempts to establish afresh his hypothesis. 1. The ureters pass round the uterus from above and behind, to before and below, and can very easily be compressed. This relation does not exist in the case of the ovaries. 2. By experiment it is clear that the secretion pressure in the kidneys is always very slight, therefore, if both ureters are compressed, the flow of urine can easily be stopped. 3. Clinical observation teaches that a small evacuation of urine is one of the strongest forerunning symptoms of eclampsia, and that this retention can almost invariably be traced to compression of the ureters.

RUSANOVSKY ON LE BON'S METHOD FOR THE TREATMENT OF STILL-BORN INFANTS.—Dr. Rusanovsky (*Vratch*, 1882, No. 1) relates a very interesting and instructive case of asphyxia neonatorum, in which, after entirely unsuccessful application of the usual methods (including Schultze's), he resolved, *in extremis*, to try hot-water treatment, lately recommended for still-birth by Dr. Le Bon. As there was no bath at hand, the author took a common iron pail, filled it with very hot water, and at once immersed the infant (who was pulseless and cold), leaving free the head alone. One minute afterwards—eighty-seven minutes after birth—the first inspiration was made, and the child's life was saved. The author points out that Le Bon's method is exceedingly simple, easy, conveniently practicable under all circumstances, and does not fatigue the obstetrician. As to the *rationale* of the method, the author is of opinion that the first inspiratory movement results from the powerful exciting influence produced by hot water upon the peripheral nerves of the skin, and from the subsequent reflex action of the respiratory centre in the medulla oblongata. —*London Med. Record.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.—A correspondent of the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* writes as follows of the University of Virginia: "Had our Southern neighbours no other boast, they might well be proud of that University. Let us see what percentage of each class is graduated there. I have accurate data for two years only. In 1878-79 there were 53 men in the medical class; 48 of these applied for graduation, and 21 alone were successful. In 1879-80 there were 46 in the class; 31 applied and 10 only graduated. I had almost as soon be one of those 10 as a survivor of the 600 at Balaklava. Can we wonder at the small classes there? But the men of that faculty prefer a small class to a large one, where the pen which titles a fool tells a lie at every stroke."

A hospital nurse on being asked which was the most dangerous case in the ward, pointed to the surgeon's instrument case. —*Mich. Med. News.*