

known hues. The principal active ingredient was the acetate of morphine; thirteen only contained this, the remainder principally contained the sulphate. *Out of the entire number returned, eleven were found to be filled correctly.* The remainder were base substitutions, either through ignorance or intention. Of the eleven that were correct, nine came from the hands of Ph. G's, the remaining two were compounded by old and reliable druggists in the city. Of the twenty-six not properly filled we found five Ph. G's., the remainder were country druggists having very little experience in this line and located, with but few exceptions, in towns of 6,000 inhabitants and less." Can it be possible that this sort of recklessness and ignorance characterizes the profession in other intelligent communities?

DIET IN PREGNANCY.—Attention has recently been directed to the well-known fact that a large proportion of the difficulties and discomforts of pregnancy are really due to neglect of ordinary simple dietetic rules, *Ed. Med. Press.* And a distinguished German physician has pointed out that an excessive amount of albumen, or of fluids, in the diet of pregnant women may tend respectively to the excessive development of the foetus or to an unusual amount of amniotic fluid. Useful rules, therefore, are that women in that condition who have contracted pelvis, or who have previously suffered from difficult labors, should partake of meat only once a day, and that in small quantities, that green vegetables, salads, potatoes, bread and butter can be taken, but that eggs, peas and beans, which are so rich in albumen, should be avoided; that fluids should only be taken in moderate quantities, and cocoa in preference to tea or coffee; that wine, beer, and spirits should be forbidden, while fruit, raw or cooked, may be indulged in *ad libitum*. The consequence of such a diet, it is stated by those who have adopted it, is to produce a feeling of "well-being," and the sense of fulness and bearing down, and the tendency to constipation, from which many pregnant women suffer, is thereby prevented. This strict diet, it is found, while diminishing the size of the foetus and the amount of amniotic fluid, does not in the slightest degree interfere with the perfect development of the former.

THE DEBATE ON A POSTURE IN AN ÆSTHESIA.—Dr. James MacMunn says, *Br. Med. Jour.* In all cases of asystole, experience has led me to consider the orthodox mode of raising the trunk and legs a mistaken one, as adding embarrassment to the dilated heart by not only increasing thoracic blood pressure, but by allowing the abdominal viscera to roll against the diaphragm. Indeed in cases of impending syncope in other instances, even quiet walking about often relieves more than resting still or lying down does.

The indication, it seems to me, is to lower the head and thorax only, not the head alone, so as to avoid tracheal constriction. This can be done by means of an inclined plane, and by a table I have made myself.

I wonder why so-called "mixed narcosis" is not now used in nervous cases as a means of deadening reflexes—I allude to the hypodermic injection of morphine and atropine or the plethoric glass of brandy or two given before anæsthesia, which were once used?

There is a curious condition of irregularity met with, generally in the dog's heart, which I presume others have noticed likewise, which may have some interest in connection with these experiments.

VENESECTION IN CHLOROFORM POISONING—Fred H. Spooner, M.D., in a letter to *The Lancet* says:—In reading the constantly recurring accounts of death from chloroform, I have never noticed that bleeding the patient has been tried. As a rule, in these reports there is no account of a *post-mortem* examination, but in some of those reported I have noticed that the left ventricle is stated to be empty and the right full.

Now, it strikes me if the engorgement of the right side could be relieved there would be a much greater chance of the patient's recovery. The bleeding might be supplemented by galvanism to stimulate the heart's action. No harm, at any rate, would be done by bleeding, as none of the usual remedies have any beneficial effect, the patient always dying if the pulse ceases before the respiration. I should recommend opening the jugular vein as more directly relieving the heart.

Many years ago, when I was house-surgeon at the Children's Hospital, Shadwell, I noticed that at the *post-mortem* examinations of children dying