

him minutely on the coverings, boundaries, contents, etc., of the part dissected. At the Maternité Hospital each candidate is practically examined on the *mannequin*, and required to show the different positions of the head, and treatment that would be judicious in complicated cases. The various operations, such as turning, forceps, etc., are gone through.

The examination, on the whole, is of a very severe and exhaustive character. Of the fourteen candidates who presented themselves for examination, six were rejected, which is a high percentage when we consider that all were qualified men possessing English diplomas.

PUERPERAL ECLAMPSIA.

MR. C. H. WATTS PARKINSON, M.B.O.S. (Wimborne) writes: There have been many reports of cases of puerperal convulsions in the JOURNAL lately, and various suggestions as to the best treatment of these distressing cases, but I have not seen any mention of nitro-glycerine, which, in my experience, is the most valuable drug for uræmic poisoning of any kind.

The treatment of pregnant women is too much neglected, and it is possible to avoid convulsions by treating the first symptoms of albuminuria, and thereby averting the threatened danger to the life of mother and child. I ask my patients to report any oedema of the legs with scanty and thick dark urine and shortness of breath, and if I find albumen present I give nitro-glycerine, with a tonic, and the symptoms disappear, and there is soon a copious flow of urine.

A woman engaged me to attend her in her confinement. She stated that she had never had a live child, but had three times been delivered of a dead child between the seventh and eighth months, and had once at least had convulsions. I found her legs very much swollen and cedematous. She was anæmic, and her face was puffy, and her urine scanty, thick, and nearly solid on boiling. I gave her nitro-glycerine and iron, and the swelling of the legs gradually disappeared; the urine became free from albumen and copious, and her health improved. She went on to full time, and was delivered instrumentally of a very large child.

Mrs. M. sent for me in a great hurry some six years ago. I found her in convulsions and unconscious. She was between six and seven months gone. I gave chloroform and delivered her, but the convulsions continued. The urine drawn off was solid with albumen. I then gave nitro-glycerine and bromide of ammonium, and subsequently nitro-glycerine and iron, and she recovered. About three months afterwards she again became pregnant. Soon after she quickened she consulted me for a sickness and headache. I found the urine contained albumen, and the headache and sickness was plainly due to uræmia. I gave her nitro-glycerine and bromide, and then iron, and she went on well to nearly eight months, when she was confined before I could get to her of a fine boy. She again became pregnant, and the uræmic symptoms again appeared, but treatment was resorted to as before, and with the same good results. She is now in good health, and the urine is quite free from albumen.

These two cases are only selected from many of a similar character. Again, in the uræmic convulsions of alcoholic poisoning nitro-glycerine is most efficacious. I had three of these cases under my care this spring. The first case I attended in consultation, when my suggestion of nitro-glycerine was not acted on, and delirium and death resulted. The other two cases were treated with nitro-glycerine, and recovered; one of these was a very severe case. The patient had twice suffered from delirium tremens, and had for many years drank to excess. He was continually taking bromides, and had been under treatment at short intervals. When I saw him he had been drinking heavily, and had become so shaky that he could not write his name or hold a glass to his mouth. He had been lying in bed for a day, and was getting out of bed when he was taken with a convulsion, and fell on the fender. He was found insensible and placed in bed. He continued slightly delirious till evening. His urine was very scanty, smoky-looking, and full of albumen. I gave him nitro-glycerine and ammonium bromide, and he improved rapidly without any return of convulsion or excitement. In three days the urine became normal. He then took iron with nitro-glycerine, and in a week was about his work again. He is so impressed with the benefit from the medicine that he has always kept some by him, and when his urine gets scanty and his back aches takes to his medicine. I am sorry to add he does not give up drink, but feel sure the medicine has averted a convulsion at least twice since the former attacks.

I have found nitro-glycerine equally beneficial in other cases of uræmia, as the convulsions of scarlatina and the uræmia of chronic heart and kidney dropsy, and have never found any evil result from its use, however long continued.

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