

Medical Matters.**BIRTH PALSY.**

Two very interesting cases of this affection occurring in a brother and sister were recently reported. The little girl, aged two and a half years, had been affected with nodding of the head and shaking of the limbs ever since birth. She had never learned to walk, and could only say a few monosyllables.

At rest, there were twitchings of the muscles of the face and extremities, with coarser movements causing shaking of the head and jerking of the limbs. The movements were much increased when the child was raised in a sitting posture. In trying to grasp anything, the attempt was accompanied by a series of jerking movements which frequently knocked the object away. The tremors ceased during sleep. There was no paralysis, no nystagmus or squinting. The knee jerks were slightly increased, but no ankle clonus. If placed in the position for walking, the limbs were thrown into a state of spasm, and the joints became rigid. The second case, a brother of the above, aged nine, had always had paralysis of the lower extremities, and could not stand or walk. There were twitchings of the facial muscles and coarse tremors of the trunk muscles and muscles of the extremities. He was imbecile, and could only say one or two words. On being placed in a position to walk, the lower limbs became rigid. The condition was in each case considered to be due to the same cause as ordinary congenital paraplegia—viz., meningeal hæmorrhage at the time of birth.

UTERINE COUGH.

A VERY troublesome cough is often associated with uterine disturbances, and only yields to treatment directed to the removal of the uterine cause. Retroflexion and prolapse of the organ are frequently unsuspected causes of this affection, the cough being cured by the application of a suitable pessary, or other local treatment. Dr. Shaeffer, in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, calls attention to the fact that inflammatory changes involving the broad ligaments or uterine tissue are frequently associated with a troublesome cough. At any rate, these cases are of sufficient frequency

to show the advisability of a careful pelvic examination being made in patients suffering from a cough for which no ordinary cause can be found.

VOCATIONAL DISEASES.

A WELL known German specialist has recently written an excellent article upon "The Vocational Diseases of the Ear." He treats them under several headings:—(1) Diseases caused by certain poisons employed in the arts (lead, mercury, phosphorus, arsenic, sulphide of carbon, and aniline dyes). These caused a gradual diminution of hearing, caused by serous exudate in the middle ear. (2) Diseases caused by compressed air (divers and caisson workers). (3) Diseases caused by sudden compression of air in the meatus and sudden loud noises, such as explosions. (4) Diseases caused by the influence of prolonged noise—boiler-makers' deafness. A peculiar condition of auditory hyperæsthesia is caused by continued use of the telephone. (5) Lastly, diseases of the ear in railway employes. Engineers and firemen are subjected to a complicated form of exposure which results in the sclerotic form of middle-ear non-suppurative inflammation.

YELLOW FEVER.

FROM Key West and New Orleans, information of a severe outbreak of yellow fever is reported. The States of Florida and Louisiana seem sorely smitten with the disease. At Key West, on October 8th, there were 24 fresh cases of yellow fever and three deaths from the disease. The littoral of the United States, facing the Gulf of Mexico, has frequently been the seat of outbreaks of yellow fever, but there can be no doubt that the freer communication established between the ports on these coasts and Cuba has increased, and will continue to increase, the danger of introduction of yellow fever into the States. It is part of the "burden" attached to opening up tropical countries that the diseases indigenous to them are carried to the white man's lands. We are apt to forget that increased intercourse with the East brought us cholera. Until 1830, cholera was unknown in Europe, but after that date it appeared again and again until improved sanitation defied its inroads. No doubt, the same law holds good in regard to yellow fever in America.

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