

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF ECLAMPSIA.

"Kosmak" (*Bulletin of the Lying-in Hospital, New York*, June, 1913), urges, says the *British Medical Journal*, the importance of the prophylaxis of eclampsia by the recognition of any signs which usher in the prodromal stages. Headaches, slight nausea, dizziness, or visual disturbances slight enough to be considered by the patient as probably digestive in origin, are significant when occurring during the last two months of pregnancy; and proper treatment will usually cut them short temporarily, though they are very likely to recur. When, however, a convulsive seizure, or a state of coma, occurs during pregnancy, the condition is usually due to the presence of a toxic state rather than to epilepsy, cerebral irritation, or uræmia, though these latter must not be forgotten. The previous history will assist in diagnosing the first two, but as a matter of practical experience if a patient in pregnancy or labour has a convulsive seizure without previous warning it may be assumed that one has to deal with a toxæmia of pregnancy. Albumin is usually present, but it may not appear in some cases for a considerable time after the convulsion, and a toxæmia may be present without convulsions. As a routine treatment in a case of a toxæmia of pregnancy in the later months accompanied by convulsions, $\frac{1}{4}$ grain of morphine should be immediately injected, after which preliminary cathartics and enemata may be administered, together with the abstraction of blood in suitable cases. The indiscriminate use of chloroform is deprecated because of its dangerous effects from late chloroform poisoning. Hot packs at intervals every two or three hours will be useful to promote elimination from the skin, and dilution of the blood stream may be brought about by colonic irrigation with not less than four gallons of normal sugar solution at 115 degs. F., provided that there is no considerable amount of œdema. After irrigation thirty to forty grains of chloral may be given per rectum. If not in labour, or not more than seven or eight months advanced in pregnancy, conservative mainly sedative and eliminatory measures should be adopted before resorting to any radical operative interference. When, however, labour is imminent, especially at term, it should be completed rapidly by rupture of the membranes, manual dilatation of the cervix, version, or forceps, unless there is some indication for more radical operative delivery. The occurrence of one convulsion only should not be accepted as the criterion for radical surgical interference.

C.M.B. EXAMINATION.

The next examination of the Central Midwives Board will be held in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on October 23rd. The Oral Examination follows a few days later.

A COMPULSORY HOLIDAY.

We should not imagine that there is likely to be any keen competition for the post of midwife for Clones dispensary should it fall vacant, to judge by the grudging conduct of the Board. Only fourteen days holiday is granted annually by the Board to the midwife, and when Miss E. Malone, the present officer, applied for two days off duty, to count as part of the fourteen days, the Guardians haggled over the request, and demanded that she should pay a substitute. However it came out in the discussion that as she had attended a case that was likely to become infectious, the doctor had ordered her off duty for a fortnight; but the Guardians, in spite of his protest, compelled Miss Malone to count the time as her whole holiday. Moreover, one of the Guardians expressed the opinion that it was a bad thing to give annual holidays, "the more they get, the more they want." Such penurious management and lack of sympathy is, one would hope, very rare in Ireland.

UNSCIENTIFIC WAYS.

The hand that rocked the cradle—but there is no such hand,
It is bad to rock the baby they would have us understand;
So the cradle's but a relic of the former foolish days,
When mothers reared their children in unscientific ways.
When they bounced them and they jounced them,
those poor dwarfs of long ago—
The Washingtons, the Jeffersons, the Adamases,
you know.

They warn us that the baby will possess a muddled brain,
If we dangle him or rock him, we must carefully refrain.
He must lie in one position, never swayed and never swung,
Or his chance to grow to greatness will be blasted while he's young.
Ah, to think how they were ruined by their mothers long ago—
The Franklins and the Putnams, and the Hamiltons, you know.

Then we must feed the baby by the schedule that is made,
And the food that he is given must be measured out and weighed.
He may bellow to inform us that he isn't satisfied,
But he couldn't grow to greatness if his wants were all supplied.
Think how foolish nursing stunted those poor weaklings long ago—
The Shakespeares and the Luthers and the Bonapartes, you know.

—*Nurses' Calendar.*

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