

GYNECOLOGY

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Treatment of Postoperative Retention of Urine.—The use of pituitrin in the treatment of urinary retention in women after operations and in the puerperium is very strongly recommended by EBELER (*Zeitschr. f. gyn. Urol.*, 1913, iv, 55), who has tried it in 21 puerperal and 24 postoperative cases, with excellent results, finding that by its use he was able in all cases to avoid catheterization. All the injections were given deep into the muscles; they are best given when the bladder is fairly full, and the patient feels the necessity of having it emptied. An injection of pituitrin given under these circumstances is nearly always followed within five minutes to ten minutes by an increased desire to micturate, this usually culminating in a spontaneous evacuation of the bladder; in some instances, however, this does not take place until after the lapse of a few hours. If the injection is given with the bladder only about half full, the action is less marked, but is still distinctly noticeable; if given when the bladder is empty, there is no appreciable effect whatever. Ebeler does not advise giving an injection upon the first intimation on the part of the patient of a desire to pass water, but thinks it is better to wait until there is very distinct discomfort in the bladder region. When once a voluntary micturition has been secured, it has seldom been found necessary to repeat the injection; in only 8 of Ebeler's 45 cases was a second dose required. In all instances the bladder was completely emptied, so far as could be determined by percussion, without using the catheter.

Treatment of Uterine Hemorrhage by the X-rays.—Although great activity along this line has been manifested in recent years throughout Europe, but comparatively little has appeared in the American literature upon the subject; a paper recently read before the Philadelphia Obstetrical Society by PFAHLER (*Amer. Jour. Obstet.*, 1913, lxvii, 860), reporting a series of cases with exceedingly encouraging results, is therefore of considerable interest. This report comprises 23 cases of more or less severe uterine hemorrhage; in 21 of the patients fibroid tumors were present, the other 2 were examples of "metropathia," without demonstrable cause. In most instances a marked diminution in the size of the tumor was noticed following treatment, in addition to the effect produced upon the hemorrhage; indeed, in 12 out of the 16 patients who have ceased treatment, the tumor has entirely disappeared. In 2 of these patients, the growth extended to the umbilicus, but after five and four years respectively it can no longer be found. Pfahler says that he has never seen malignant degeneration of a myoma follow x-ray treatment, and does not consider the danger from this possibility very great. Where the patient is very anemic,