Intra-Uterine Crying of Child during Labor

To the Editor:—I enclose a short report of an obstetric case that was novel to me.

Mrs. H., aged 17, American, primipara, was confined June 10. It was a breech presentation in which attempts at version were unsuccessful. The patient was put under anesthesia, the cervix dilated with the hand and one foot grasped and brought down. While I was trying to bring down the other foot, the peculiar phenomenon occurred. When I passed my left hand into the uterus, the baby began crying and continued uninterruptedly until the body and shoulders were delivered and the head engaged, the crying being heard by the anesthetist and others in the room. The child is living and weighs 10½ pounds.

H. A. CABLES, M.D., East St. Louis, Ill.

[COMMENT.—The crying of the infant during the parturition while the head is still in the uterus, although a somewhat rare occurrence, is quite possible and cases are mentioned by most authorities on obstetrics. In order for this to occur, the membranes must be ruptured and air must have access to the interior of the uterus. Like ordinary respiration, it is excited by reflex action, and hence would be favored by manipulations. Stories of children crying in the uterus during pregnancy must be considered, from the evidence available, as absolutely fabulous.—Ed.]

Queries and Minor Notes

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS and queries on postal cards will not be noticed. Every letter must contain the writer's name and address, but these will be omitted, on request.

WASSERMANN REACTION IN LEAD-POISONING

To the Editor:—Can you tell me if a positive Wassermann reaction is obtained in lead-poisoning? If so, please give references to the literature.

JOHN H. BURKE, M.D., Rockland, Mass.

ANSWER.—A positive Wassermann reaction has been obtained in a considerable number of cases of lead-poisoning; in a smaller number of cases, the reaction has been negative. The evidence is not sufficient to determine whether the positive reaction is due to syphilis or, in some way, to the influence of lead. It seems probable that many syphilitics are especially susceptible to lead-poisoning. It is also possible that the reaction, in some cases, is due to the fact that the lead-poisoning favors a positive result of the Wassermann reaction in cases of latent syphilis which would not otherwise react.

The following articles may be referred to:

- Field, Cyrus W.: The Occurrence of a Positive Wassermann Reaction in Cases of Lead-Poisoning, *THE JOURNAL A. M. A.*, June 1, 1912, p. 1681.
Dreyer, A.: The Wassermann Reaction in Lead-Poisoning, *Deutsch. med. Wchnschr.*, 1911, xxxvii, 769; abstr., *THE JOURNAL A. M. A.*, June 3, 1911, p. 1694.
Schnitter: The Wassermann Reaction in Lead-Poisoning, *Deutsch. med. Wchnschr.*, 1911, xxxvii, 1009; abstr., *THE JOURNAL A. M. A.*, July 8, 1911, p. 174.
Perussia, F.: Lead-Poisoning and the Wassermann Reaction, *Deutsch. med. Wchnschr.*, 1911, xxxvii, 1545; abstr., *THE JOURNAL A. M. A.*, Sept. 30, 1911, p. 1169.
Gibson, J. L.: Wassermann Reaction in Lead-Poisoning, *Australasian Med. Gaz.*, 1913, xxxiii, No. 14.
Hilgermann, R.: Wassermann Reaction and Lead-Poisoning, *Deutsch. med. Wchnschr.*, 1912, xxxviii, 118.

LITHIUM SALTS IN URIC ACID DIATHESIS

To the Editor:—There appears to be a diversity of opinion regarding the action of lithium salts in uric acid diathesis, some authorities declaring that their action as a solvent is much overrated and that the addition of lithium to the blood-serum does not increase the solubility of the uric acid in it. An opinion on this subject through *THE JOURNAL* would be greatly appreciated.

E. CLAYTON, M.D., Vancouver, B. C.

ANSWER.—There is no reliable clinical evidence that lithium salts increase the excretion of uric acid by the kidney except as they exert a diuretic action. Experimental work has failed to show that lithium salts or the alkalies cause the absorption of deposited urates in gouty tophi, etc. The theory of the administration of lithium is founded on a misinterpretation of chemical facts. Lithium forms a highly soluble urate and

in the test-tube may favor the solution of urates, but in the blood-serum and the urine other salts react in such a way that the urate is not made more soluble; thus, sodium urate is much less soluble than lithium urate, and as sodium is present in large amount in the blood-serum and in the urine there is, according to chemical principles, a tendency to the formation of sodium urate, which is soluble with difficulty, instead of the easily soluble lithium urate. Furthermore, the blood contains phosphates which tend to form with lithium the insoluble lithium phosphate so that the tendency, on the introduction of a lithium salt into the blood-serum or urine containing sodium urate and sodium phosphate, is to the formation of the insoluble lithium phosphate and the sodium urate, which is with difficulty soluble. There is no reason, therefore, to expect lithium salts to favor the solution of uric acid or urates, in the tissues, the blood-serum or the urine.

ARTICLES ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

To the Editor:—I should like to obtain material for a book on juvenile delinquency from a medical and surgical point of view. Can you refer me to any literature on that subject?

J. C. CROSSLAND, M.D., Zanesville, Ohio.

ANSWER.—The following is a list of articles on this subject:

- Literature on Relation of Disease and Crime, *Queries and Minor Notes*, *THE JOURNAL*, April 25, 1914, p. 1350.
Literature on Disease and Crime, *Queries and Minor Notes*, *THE JOURNAL*, May 9, 1914, p. 1494.
The Physical Basis of Crime: A Symposium, published by American Academy of Medicine, 52 North Fourth Street, Easton, Pa., \$4.
Brown, P. K.: The Neurotic Basis of Juvenile Delinquency, *THE JOURNAL*, Jan. 20, 1912, p. 184.
Coulter, E. K.: Mentally Defective Delinquents and the Law, National Conf. Char. and Cor., 1911, p. 68.
Evans, E. G., and Dawson, M. W.: Feeble-mindedness and Juvenile Delinquency, *Charities*, 1908, xx, 183.
Falconer, M. P.: Causes of Delinquency Among Girls, *Ann. Am. Acad. Pol. and Soc. Sc.*, 1910, xxxvi, 77.
Healy, W.: Factors Involved in Juvenile Delinquency, *THE JOURNAL*, April 25, 1914, p. 1328.
Newkirk, H. D.: Relation of Physical Defect to Delinquency, with Special Reference to Hennepin County Juvenile Court, *Bull. Am. Acad. Med.*, February, 1914.
Toeplitz, M.: Five Hundred Examinations of Nose and Throat in an Institution for Delinquent Boys, *Med. Rec.*, New York, March 14, 1914.
Frost, C. A.: Degenerate Girl, *Wisconsin Med. Jour.*, February, 1914.
Christian, F. L.: Defective Delinquent, *Albany Med. Ann.*, May, 1913.

KEROSENE THERAPY—TREATMENT OF NICOTIN HABIT

To the Editor:—1. One hears a great deal in rural practice about the therapy of kerosene. "It cures almost everything from rattlesnake bites to scarlet fever." Please discuss the physiologic action and therapy.

2. What drugs are used in the treatment of the nicotine habit, chewing, snuffing and smoking?

A. C. S.

ANSWER.—1. Kerosene is an irritant. Its only effect would be due to the counterirritation produced by local applications for which there are much better agents.

2. The treatment of the nicotine habit is similar to that of the alcohol habit. See *THE JOURNAL*, June 21, 1913, p. 1933. For a description of the treatment of the cigaret habit by silver nitrate see *THE JOURNAL*, Jan. 17, 1914, p. 224.

ARTICLES ON TROPICAL MALARIA

To the Editor:—I desire to secure some recent literature on the treatment of malaria such as is brought to us from the Orient, which may not differ from other malaria.

W. E. ALLAMAN, M.D., Dayton, Ohio.

ANSWER.—The following is a list of articles on this subject:

- Hand, A.: Quinin in Malaria, *South. Med. Jour.*, September, 1912.
Goldthwaite, R. H.: Salvarsan and Malaria, *Mil. Surgeon*, October, 1912.
Fusco, V.: Salvarsan not Effectual in Malaria, *Gazz. d. Osp.*, Nov. 10, 1912.
Harris, S.: The Radical Cure of Malaria, *THE JOURNAL*, Nov. 26, 1910, p. 1879.
Lambelle, F. W.: Trypsin and Amylopsin in Malaria, *Pub. Health Rep.*, Jan. 3, 1914; abstr., *THE JOURNAL*, Feb. 14, 1914, p. 506.
Carter, H. R.: Quinin Prophylaxis for Malaria, *Pub. Health Rep.*, March 27, 1914; Reprint 175, abstr., *THE JOURNAL*, June 27, 1914, p. 2042.
Braddock, C. S., Jr.: Tropical Malaria and Its Causes, *New York Med. Jour.*, May 16, 1914; abstr., *THE JOURNAL*, May 30, 1914, p. 1756.
Bass, C. C.: Treatment and Cure of Malaria, *South. Med. Jour.*, May, 1914; abstr., *THE JOURNAL*, Dec. 20, 1913, p. 2269.
Baermann, G.: Salvarsan-Copper in Frambesia, Malaria, Amebic Dysentery and Leprosy, *München. med. Wchnschr.*, Jan. 6, 1914.
Baeize, P.: Neosalvarsan in Malaria, *München. med. Wchnschr.*, Dec. 16, 1913.