2. ENDOCRINOPATHIES.

Mahnert, A. ENDOCRINE MALFORMATION IN THE PREGNANT. [Arch. für Gynaekologie, 1919, 110, No. 3.]

Mahnert applied a refractometer Abderhalden micromethod to determine the presence in the blood serum of ferments against ovarian, thyroid and suprarenal albumin in a large number of pregnant and non-pregnant women. His tabulated findings by this means demonstrate malfunction of the ovaries in 80 per cent. of the pregnant women, malfunction of the thyroid in 57 per cent. and of the suprarenals in 42 per cent., the latter predominantly in multiparae. In the nonpregnant women no ferments of the kind could be discovered. He refers parenthetically to Kraus and Saudek's finding of a ferment against testicle albumin with a male fetus and against ovarian albumin with a female fetus. The material serum in his tests showed no distinction of the kind. [J. A. M. A.]

Lesné. ADRENALIN BY THE DIGESTIVE TRACT. [Bull. et Mém. Soc. Méd. des Hôp. de Paris, June 17, 1920.]

Oral ingestion or a rectal injection of adrenalin, even in large doses (2 mg. in children aged 5-10 years or 3-4 mg. in adults), have been found by this author to have no constant action on the arterial pressure. When given in these large doses by mouth or rectum, however, he has found that the drug has a distinct effect on the signs of acute or chronic suprarenal insufficiency. The method of introduction of adrenalin into the digestive tract is of importance, for Lesné and Dreyfus have shown that the toxicity of adrenalin disappears when it is ingested. On the other hand, it remains very toxic when injected into the rectum in the same doses as when given subcutaneously. The liver, however, neutralizes the poison. Lesné recommends that rectal injection of adrenalin should be used whenever possible in preference to oral administration, as more rapid, and definite effects will be produced with smaller doses.

Polettini, B. CHANGES PRODUCED IN VESSEL WALLS BY INJECTION OF ADRENALIN. [Arch. per le Sci. med., Fasc. 1-2, 1920.]

Repeated injection of fractional doses of adrenalin, given either intravenously or intraperitoneally to rabbits, constantly obtained aortic lesions consisting in degeneration and necrosis of the smooth muscle fibers of the tunica media. This subsequently gave rise to mechanical distension followed by atrophy, rupture, and destruction of the elastic fibers, and an extensive calcification of the bones thus degenerated. These changes were found to be identical with those which occur in rabbits as the result of spontaneous arterio-sclerosis, so that it could be affirmed that arterio-sclerosis in the rabbit could be produced experi-