AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

On the supposed Action of Quinia on the Gravid Uterus. By JAMES BROWN, M.D., of Newcomerstown, Ohio.

I have spent about thirty years in the practice of medicine in the Tuscarawas valley, where miasmatic influences stamp their peculiar impress upon almost every form of disease, making quinia a prime necessity throughout the successive seasons of the year. I do not hesitate to prescribe it without reference to the *fact* or the *stage* of pregnancy. I give it not only with a view to arrest an attack of intermitting or remitting fever, or to support and sustain the powers of life, sinking under the influence of disease which I cannot cut short, but I give it to pregnant women the same as to other patients, in conditions of comparative and comfortable health, with a view to anticipate and ward off an expected *return* of ague.

In this long, extensive, and varied experience in the use of the remedy in question, I have never been led to suspect it of any power or tendency, in proper doses, to awaken uterine contractions, or in any way to disturb the normal functions of the uterine system.

Is Quinia an Oxytocic? By G. ERICKSON, M.D., of Kendallville, Ind.

My medical experience extends over a period of eighteen years, in one of the most malarial sections of northern Indiana, where, during some seasons, in my earlier practice, there were not enough well persons to take care of those suffering from malarial diseases. In those primitive times here a very large majority of the families were young, consequently the obstetric cases were much greater in proportion to the population, than at the present time. Quinia was the almost universal remedy for all malarious diseases, prescribed freely, from twenty to forty grains in intermittents and remittents, but in the latter it generally had to be repeated. In the pernicious forms of these diseases, from sixty to one hundred grains were given, usually in the course of a few hours, yet even with this quantity the remedy had usually to be repeated, though in diminished doses.

This treatment was practised in pregnant patients just as in others, and but few females escaped the fever at some period of gestation, so prevalent was it.

Yet not in a single instance did it develop uterine contractions "*de novo*," but if they existed at the time quinia was given, then, in a certain number of cases, it certainly did increase their force, but had but little influence on their frequency. Its effects as an oxytocic were most marked in the advanced stages of labours, especially at or near the full term of gestation, while in the earlier stages, especially in miscarriages, it seldom produced any perceptible effect upon the uterine contractions.

The severer forms of malarial diseases were not an uncommon cause of miscarriages, if allowed to continue, but even when moderate uterine con-

tractions had commenced and no hemorrhage had occurred, these contractions usually ceased if the paroxysms of the disease were promptly arrested by quinia.

Morphia prevented its oxytocic effect.

My conclusions may be briefly stated to be these: That quinia does not develop uterine contractions "de novo."

That if they exist in a moderate degree it has but little or no influence over them. But in advanced stages of labours, especially at or near full term of gestation, then its effects, in some cases, are more marked as an oxytocic, though in a minority of cases.

Its effect was to increase the force rather than the frequency of uterine contractions. Did it possess a strong tendency to produce miscarriages, there would have been but a very small natural increase of the population here in those times, but the reverse was the fact.

Case of Bending of the Bones of the Forearm in a Child two years old.
By W. C. EICHELBERGER, M.D., of Eugene, Ind.

Was called Sep. 3, 1871, to see a girl, about two years old, who, while playing, fell from a step about twelve inches in height, striking principally upon her right hand. Upon examination, found a hard projection, upon the dorsal surface of the right forearm, at the junction of the middle and lower thirds of arm; with a concavity on the palmar surface at point of injury; no crepitation or pain, pronation and supination but slightly interfered with. Upon rotating the arm so that the radial border became the upper one, it could be seen that there was a bending of both radius and ulna at the seat of injury. I diagnosed angular curvature of both bones; the data for the opinion being, absence of all of the usual signs of fracture in this region, no pain, slight interference with rotary action of arm, and age of the child.

The radius and ulna were bent at an angle of about eight degrees.

The injury was treated by placing a firm compress upon the projection, then applying long splints, as directed in fractures of the forearm, and over all a roller bandage, firmly applied, the apparatus reapplied whenever necessary, so as to keep up constant pressure upon the projection formed by the bending of the bones. The dressings were removed in four weeks from receipt of injury, when the limb was found to be restored to its normal condition. Any one not acquainted with the circumstances would be unable to tell which was the injured arm.

Amenorrhœa relieved by the Hypodermic Use of Morphia and Atropia.
By R. Z. LEEDS, M.D., of Hilliard, Ohio.

Miss J. F., æt. 18, has suffered from *suppressio mensium* at almost every period since puberty; often becoming delirious, biting her hands and raving in such a manner as to require force to restrain her from committing acts of violence. First menstruated at the age of 13; is very plethoric; weight, one hundred and seventy-five pounds; accustomed to much exercise. The menses occur regularly, but nearly always cease after the first day or two; when she is seized with rigours, followed by pyrexia each day, until the time of menstruation is past. Her mind has been affected seriously by this return each month. Believing that amenorrhœa is not a disease, but a symptom of some local or general disease, we have treated her accordingly with iron, quinia, strychnia, etc., without much benefit.

February 3d. Last night she had scarcely any sleep, but is more quiet