

canal, the rectal tube being inserted as far as necessary. This mixture, which may be called ether-air, rapidly finds its way through the coils of intestines, giving forth strong rumblings as it progresses onward, causing distension on entering the stomach, from whence it is belched, provided no perforation exists along its pathway. Upon reaching a perforation, however, the ether-air escapes into the peritoneal cavity, tympanites more rapidly develops, and upon dilating the wound entrance down to the peritoneum quickly comes out into the world, being at once recognized by its odor and the hissing sound of escaping gas. Upon opening the abdomen the distension of the intestine from the rectum up can be followed to the point of injury where the same odor and hissing are noted and the wound repaired. Continuing the search till no more ether-air is found escaping from the intestines we may rely upon its efficacy.

*Case 1.*—Dog, thirty pounds; shot through abdomen. The rectal tube was inserted and ether-air forced in. A rumbling along the colon could be followed to the small intestines when tympanites rapidly developed (dog was stimulated by the ether to renewed but weak struggles, although the first shot fired was too high, piercing the heart, the second shot taking effect antero-posteriorly at the middle of the abdomen). At the wound entrance, skin only being enlarged, ether-air escaped quickly with a hissing noise, proving the existence of perforation. The abdomen was opened and three through and through perforations of the small intestines found and four others with only one portion of the gut pierced, each perforation giving out ether-air as the proximal perforations were closed.

*Case 2.*—Dog, forty pounds; shot in abdomen. A tube was placed in the stomach and the stomach rapidly dilated and the vapor passed a short distance. Tympanites developed rapidly. The abdomen was opened and perforation quickly found in the duodenum.

It might be urged that the rectal administration of such a powerful anesthetic would be fraught with serious dangers, but the quantity of ether is so very small that the small amount of ether vapor given off from it is insignificant in effects, aside from those decidedly beneficial, stimulating the dying to renewed struggles and soothing the system preparatory to treatment.

*Case 3.*—Live puppy, three pounds. Ether-air was forced through the rectum and out the mouth continuously for an hour. No effects were produced aside from a sense of fullness and seeming happy satisfaction with the overloaded alimentary canal. This process could have continued for unlimited time, but one hour and no anesthetic effects satisfied us there would be none.

EMERSON M. SUTTON, M.D.

### Precocious Pregnancy.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, July 16, 1898.

*To the Editor:*—The letters in the last number of the JOURNAL, on "Precocious Pregnancy," remind me of a case that I saw a couple of years ago. Through the courtesy of my friends, Dr. and Mrs. Lukens, I learned the personal history of the case. The girl menstruated first at the age of 11 years and three months. She immediately became pregnant and was delivered at full term by a rather tedious delivery, although otherwise normal, of a large, well-developed child. Both mother and child did well. The father, at the birth of the baby, was just 14 years old. Sincerely yours,

N. STONE SCOTT, M.D.

### Alcohol Injections in Hodgkin's Disease, Etc.

ST. LOUIS, MO., July 13, 1898.

*To the Editor:*—The undersigned is preparing a paper on his experience with injection of alcohol in cases of Hodgkin's disease and cancer of the stomach and for the present will only

say that the results thus far have been very encouraging. In due time he will send you a full report for publication.

Respectfully,

A. F. BOCK, M.D.

### Reply to Professor Klebs.

CHICAGO, July 19, 1898.

*To the Editor:*—The following is the reply I wish to make to Professor Klebs' letter beginning: "In consequence of the surprising declaration of Dr. Murphy that tuberculosis of the lungs can be cured, etc."

Professor Klebs has never seen my article, therefore he knows neither my conclusions nor the work on which I base those conclusions, therefore, his letter has no scientific value in connection with my paper. The paper is now appearing in the JOURNAL. I trust that those who have read Professor Klebs' letter will read the paper most carefully.

Very respectfully, J. B. MURPHY, M.D.

### BOOK NOTICES.

**The Extra Pharmacopeia.** Revised in accordance with the "British Pharmacopeia" in 1898. By WILLIAM MARTINDALE, F.L.S., F.C.S. Serotherapy, Organotherapy, Medical References and the Therapeutic Index. By W. WYNN WESCOTT, M.B. Ninth Edition. Price 10s. 6d.

It must be a sad sight to those writers in this country who have always opposed the decimal system to find that British Pharmacopeia now adopts a dual system of weights and measures in all its formulæ except those employed in testing. The British Pharmacopeia states: "The alternative employment in the British Pharmacopeias of 1867 and 1885 of metric weights and measures in the paragraph relating to volumetric analysis is not extended to every official paragraph which makes reference to the usual Imperial weights and measures but the metric system alone is employed in all paragraphs relating to analysis whether the gravimetric or volumetric. During the period of transition from the Imperial to the Metric system a certain amount of confusion is likely to occur."

The editor of this work, Dr. Martindale, says, "To aid the transition, therefore, and to avoid confusion as much as possible we have in a measure followed the commendable precedent of the first official German Pharmacopeia, and of the United States Pharmacopeia of 1883. In either of these with few exceptions parts by weights were employed."

"We have further given in the body of the work the approximate doses of each drug and preparation in terms of the metric system. In further trying to think in the metric system, prescribers may consider the English grain as 65 milligrams (0.065 grams) and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  grains as 10 centigrams and 18 minims as approximately 1 cubic centimeter. Following the U. S. Pharmacopeia we have abbreviated the word gram to Gm. and the words cubic centimeter to Cc. The contraction gm. being printed in heavier type and with a capital initial letter, and we recommended it to be written, will distinguish it from gr. the usual contraction for grain. We trust that our readers may soon be able to become familiar with the quantities and doses in terms of the metric system, which it is hoped will ere long supersede the old system. Probably the greatest difficulty will be the introduction of conveniently sized medicine bottles to contain the metric equivalents of the household measures, teaspoonful and tablespoonful."

This work will be found very valuable, especially in regard to the therapeutic uses of the new remedies and the antitoxin.

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This volume is edited for the Association by E. D. Ferguson, M.D., and comprises thirty-two papers by leading practitioners; also lists of officers, committees, Fellows, reports of the District Branches, the New York County Medical Association.