Mention is made of experiments which prove the increase in intraabdominal pressure. The fact that eclampsia occurs far more frequently in primiparae, in cases of multiple pregnancy and hydramnios is also discussed.

Postpartum eclampsia he believes, must be attributed to the effects of labor on viscera prone to such disease.

NORMAN F. MILLER.

Mack: Hyperemesis Gravidarum. Zeitschrift für Geburtshilfe und Gynäkologie, 1920, lxxxiii, 27.

The author gives an extensive discussion of the numerous theories of the etiology of this disease, grouping them into those of reflex neurosis, functional neurosis, intoxication and bacterial infection. His personal conclusion from a study of 50 cases occurring in the Giessener clinic during a period of 15 years is that it is a maternal intoxication caused by the ovum. An hysterical tendency may be a predisposing or additional cause. Treatment should be carried out in a hospital, with complete rest in bed, proctoclysis with Ringer's solution and bromides. Teaspoonful doses of feed milk are gradually increased as tolerated, then eggs and "zwieback", later gruels. If no improvement, normal pregnant serum may be used. Psychic control of the patient is most important. Therapeutic abortion should not be too long delayed in the severe and progressive cases. If the general condition grows worse and in addition to acetone and diacetic acid in the urine, pulse and temperature rise and the sensorium becomes clouded, the pregnancy should be terminated. Vaginal hysterotomy is the best, since it is the most rapid, method of abortion.

MARGARET SCHULZE.

Hurst: The Hysterical Nature of the So-called Pernicious Vomiting of Pregnancy. The Lancet, 1922, ccii, 528.

The author is of the opinion that pernicious vomiting of pregnancy is always hysterical except where associated with eclampsia and acute yellow atrophy. He believes the condition curable by properly applied psychotherapy.

He reports two cases both presenting the clinical picture of a severe pernicious vomiting. Both had a very high ammonia coefficient. By the use of psychotherapy the condition in these cases was cured.

Hurst is of the opinion that the high ammonia coefficient and excess of diacetic acid is due to starvation rather than a toxemia. These findings do not occur in starvation where fluids have been liberally taken.

NORMAN F. MILLER.

Falk: A Further Contribution to Hypnotism in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Zentralblatt für Gynäkologie, 1922, xlvi, 658.

Falk adds to the testimony of Schultze-Rhonhof as to the value of hypnotism in obstetrics and gynecology. While the former dealt largely with the results at the time of labor, Falk instances remarkable results in other fields, notably seven cases of severe hyperemesis gravidarum, two of which had been sent to the clinic for the termination of pregnancy. Only one was refractory; the other six were completely healed by suggestion, the most severe case showing the promptest recovery. This was a twenty-six year old, third-para, in the third month of pregnancy. She was in a very serious state, having vomited from the first day of the pregnancy. After one treatment she was improved, and within a few days had recovered her appetite and was free from nausea. The mental condition was also markedly improved. She is now within one month of her labor.

Likewise in dysmenorrhea most remarkable results are reported, 13 out of 16 cases being practically cured by suggestion.

Little is said of the technic of the treatment, but one case reported is of extreme interest. A twenty-year-old nullipara, with normal genitalia, had, since puberty, profuse menstruation and in the past two years, periods lasting 10 to 14 days. She was very anemic and suffered from headache. All the usual treatment had been tried without results. At the first sitting, in an interval between periods, she was hypnotized to complete amnesia, and it was impressed upon her that the periods would never last longer than three full days, and that, as soon as the three days were passed, the blood would be directed to the vessels of the limbs. This suggestion was repeated on three successive days, and the patient was instructed to return after the subsequent menstruation. She knew nothing of what had been said while she was under the hypnotic influence. A few days later she reported that the period had lasted but three days, and it is interesting that she then complained of severe pains in the limbs. Three subsequent menstruations have lasted only three days, and the headache has disappeared.

A further case, of sexual frigidity, was also reported as completely cured by suggestion under hypnosis.

LITTLE.

Liepmann and Schulz: Newer Results in Placenta and Eclampsia Research.

Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift, 1921, xlvii, 1417.

In previous researches, Liepmann and his collaborators had demonstrated that the placenta contains both a glycolytic and a peptolytic ferment. They also found that placentas from eclamptic patients manifested a toxic action on rabbits not produced by normal placenta. Strangely enough, placenta from a patient who had numerous attacks of convulsion was less toxic than from one who had only one attack, as if the poison had already been spent in the former. By certain precipitins, these placental constituents were demonstrated in the patients' blood.

In the present work, solutions of dextrose and of casein as well as diluted cow's milk were dialyzed through fresh normal placentas at body temperature. In each case there occurred a retention of from 25 to 40 per cent within the placenta. In placentas, inactivated for two hours at 75° C., the retention was practically nil. In using placentas from eclamptic and pre-eclamptic patients, however, it was found that instead of being diminished as in the normal placenta, the amount of nitrogen transfused was actually increased, up to over 700 per cent, while the amount of sugar was diminished even to a greater extent than in normal placentas. This seemed to show that not only the transfused protein is digested in the placenta, but that, in addition, a variable amount of amino-acids and other nitrogen products are given off by the placenta itself, at any rate in the case of an abnormal placenta. Since the placenta thus appears to be the source of toxins in eclampsia, the authors are of the opinion that any form of treatment which does not include emptying the uterus, is illogical.

R. E. WOBUS.

Phillips: Acute Hepatic Toxemia Complicating Pregnancy and Labor. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the British Empire*, 1921, xxviii, 124.

The chief infecting organism attacking the liver during pregnancy and labor is the colon bacillus, less common the staphylococcus and streptococcus. Five reported cases are considered to be infections of the liver. Two cases suggest the possibility of delayed chloroform poisoning, the pertinent symptoms not