

King: Corpus Luteum Extract in the Treatment of the Vomiting of Pregnancy. Journal American Medical Association, 1922, lxxviii, 484.

King treated 40 cases of vomiting of pregnancy by various methods, 12 of them receiving injections of corpus luteum extract over a variable period of time. Five patients died. He does not share the enthusiasm of Hirst regarding the results obtained from corpus luteum. While some of the milder cases were cured and 2 of the more severe ones improved temporarily the results were such as might be obtained from any form of treatment and were not reliable. He concludes that the best results are obtained from the use of sedatives, colonic irrigations, and the rectal administration of solutions of sodium bicarbonate and glucose. This line of treatment should not be delayed too long in refractory cases.

R. E. WOBUS.

Frank: The Ovary and the Endocrinologist. Journal American Medical Association, 1922, lxxviii, 181.

Frank takes up the present wave of unfounded endocrinology, based upon incomplete or faulty observations and fostered by commercialism both in and out of the profession. In exasperation he asks: "What is to be the end of this seemingly uncontrolled wave of mysticism, hysteria, commercialism and credulousness? Does it betoken the birth of another cult, to be controlled by the self-seeker and the charlatan, and which, at least for the moment, will carry along with it the overoptimistic, the uncritical and the untrained members of our profession? If this must be the outcome, the sooner the break occurs the better, then all hail to the 'endocrinopractor'!"

He feels that Goetsch's claim, that the extract from the anterior lobe of the pituitary has a stimulating effect on the sex organs, has been adequately disproved. The only extractable substances having a stimulating effect upon the uterus are the liquor folliculi and the lipoids of the corpus luteum and of the placenta. Since all the commercial extracts of ovary and corpus luteum are "defatted," they are devoid of the only possible pharmacologic action which they might possess. In fact, they have been proved to be quite inert.

From this, Frank does not deduce that a potential ovarian extract cannot be produced. He does maintain, however, that it has not, as yet, made its appearance.

Since, as has again been brought out by Robert Meyer, the *interstitial gland* does not exist in the human ovary, it cannot have any function.

R. E. WOBUS.

Graves: The Endocrine in Gynecology. New York Medical Journal, 1920, cxii, 697.

The normal secretion of the ovary is essential for complete somatic growth and sexual development. During adult life, however, the ovarian secretion plays a somewhat minor role in the human economy, as is indicated by the comparatively slight physical changes that take place after ablation or the natural menopause. At this time there is probably a balancing rather than a direct action of the ovarian secretion.

From an organotherapeutic viewpoint, the ovary must be regarded as primarily a homogeneous gland, the essential secreting structures being the interstitial cells. Variations in secretions of different parts of the gland are probably differences of degree rather than of kind. A selective action of the secre-