

conjunctivitis, with protrusion of the membrane. It affected only one eye.

It may be asked, were these abnormal developments in any way due to the impressions made on the mind of the mother? I do not attempt to answer that question, but only state facts, and leave others to judge of their connection.

D. O. PERRY, M.D.

*Portland, Me., Aug. 10th, 1859.*

## TREATMENT OF THE NAUSEA AND VOMITING OF PREGNANCY.

BY J. H. WARREN, M.D., NEPONSET.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

How much has been written and said upon this subject, and what a vast catalogue of medicines have, from the most ancient to the more modern times, been recommended and tried as sure specifics; and how often has the most aspiring and faithful son of *Æsculapius* been obliged to disgorge his strong faith in them, as the nauseated patient does the most potent draught administered by his kind hand! External applications over the epigastric region have been often resorted to with a good degree of success. Perhaps the tincture of opium and brandy, or the tincture of opium alone, stands at the head of the external medicines, at least as far as my observations have extended, it having often entirely relieved the nausea and vomiting. I have in some few instances added one drachm of the tincture of iodine to one ounce of the tincture of opium, with benefit. With internal medicines I have had but little success in relieving this distressing complaint. The most efficient I have tried, is the pill of nitrate of silver and opium, recommended by our distinguished and learned friend, Prof. W. Channing. But even this little pill has failed in my hands of accomplishing the desired result.

Of late, applications to the os uteri have been recommended, with a slight show of success; upon what scientific principle, I leave others to discuss, as my intentions are only to mention some, and the success I have had in the use of them. Various agents have been suggested. The tincture of iodine has been favorably spoken of by some authors. I have applied it to the os in a few cases only, as the complaints of the patient, of a metallic taste of the iodine in the mouth, show it to be about as great an annoyance as the sickness we endeavor to remove by its use. I can conceive, however, that this agent might be of vast value in cases of scrofulous disease in this organ. Otherwise, I should have but little faith in the use of it, so long as we can have recourse to other agents less objectionable in their effects, and equally as potent as the iodine, in assuaging the distress of this unpleasant complaint, and more especially if there exists any inflammation of

the mouth and neck of the womb, a very common concomitant affection now-a-days, as every practitioner knows, with pregnancy. What is better here than the nitrate of silver? Its result in reducing inflammation and ulceration is an established fact, and it will prevent nausea and vomiting in pregnancy, if properly applied to the os and cervix uteri, as well as iodine, and that without the unpleasant taste in the mouth.

In passing upon applications to the uterus in these cases, I would take the liberty of calling attention to the application of the tincture of benzoin and chloric ether, which I have been using with as good an amount of success, as any agent I have employed, and it has the advantage of being very simple. I would particularly recommend it where there is much neuralgic pain and excessive leucorrhœal secretion. I have found nothing so beneficial in these last-named accompaniments, as this preparation. By adding a few grains of acetate of morphia to this, it will also be found a very efficient remedy in painful menstruation, and will seldom fail, in the practitioner's hands, of giving ease and comfort to the female, during this her much-dreaded period, if applied just before or at the commencement of menstruation. It should be painted upon the os and cervix, once in three or four days; and may be continued throughout the whole period of pregnancy without any unpleasant effects. My formula for this preparation:—R. Tinct. benzonii c., ℥ii.; chloric ether, ℥i.; acet. morphia, grs. ii. M. These applications should not only be made to the mouth of the womb, but should extend to the neck, if we wish to gain a favorable result from them. If the silver be used, it cannot be applied too lightly; a very slight pencilling is all that is required. If applied so as to produce sloughing and discharges, it will fail of accomplishing our desires. Are not the good effects of these applications to be accounted for, from the fact that they form a protecting coat over the congested and abraded uterine mouth and neck, that may take place in the impregnated uterus, thereby allaying the irritation of the external uterine nerves and vessels, by equal pressure and protection from all external influences of vagina and other sources? I should be happy to hear the result of the use of these preparations in the practice of other medical gentlemen.

In addition to the above, I have used injections of Ferri aluminis, ℥i.; inf. opii, ℥ii.; aquæ dist., ℥viii. M. with some benefit. These can be used where it would not be expedient to employ the speculum. I sometimes substitute iodide of zinc for the alum. This is more applicable to those cases where there is slight spasmodic action in this organ, or in the neck of the bladder. I use five grains of zinc to the ounce.