

while among those patients treated without ergot it was 51.6 per cent. Ranson says that this result is striking when we consider that usually the sedatives increase the mortality. Ranson likewise found ergot of value in the incipient cases, the percentage of patients developing delirium being reduced 23.3 per cent. by its use. He says that any explanation of its action would be pure speculation, but speaks of the possibility that it may decrease the cerebral hyperemia. Ranson also believes that whiskey is of use in the treatment of incipient cases, lowering the percentage of patients becoming delirious by 20.2 per cent. In the delirious patients, he believes it is useless.

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**The Pathogenesis and Therapeutics of Diarrhœa.**—A. SCHMIDT (*Med. Klin.*, 1909, xiii, 457) reviews briefly some of the causes of diarrhœa, and mentions particularly a form with serous, foul-smelling stools. This form, he believes, is due to an abnormal secretion of an albuminous fluid which putrifies readily. He discusses briefly the treatment of the different forms of diarrhœa, classifying the remedies into the opiates, the astringents, and the intestinal antiseptics. The opiates are believed to be beneficial by reason of their antiperistaltic action, and consequently they are used in cases of diarrhœa due to increased peristaltic action. Schmidt believes they should be used only in cases of chronic diarrhœa when all other measures fail, never for acute cases. He believes that the opiates are an example of symptomatic therapy and have no relation to rational therapeutics. The use of the astringents rests upon a much firmer etiological basis, but their application is limited to certain forms of diarrhœa, *e. g.*, those showing signs of a subacute or chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane. Schmidt says that he has made many clinical observations and experiments in order to determine the most efficient intestinal antiseptic, and he believes that hydrogen dioxide is the most efficient and least harmful. He found that pure agar-agar was able to take up from 10 to 12 per cent. of hydrogen dioxide, and that it yielded it up very slowly in the form of nascent oxygen. He used this hydrogen-dioxide-agar for the treatment of diarrhœa with serous foul-smelling stools, with good results. It had no apparent effect upon diarrhœas originating in the large intestine or those due to intestinal tuberculosis. Schmidt concludes by saying that since the hydrogen-dioxide-agar is perfectly harmless, it should be more widely used, in order to determine its further uses and limitations.

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## PEDIATRICS.

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UNDER THE CHARGE OF

LOUIS STARR, M.D., AND THOMPSON S. WESTCOTT, M.D.,  
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**Staphylococcic Infection Treated with Killed Bacteria.**—SOPER (*Pediatrics*, xxi, No. 3) reports observations on the application of opsonic therapy to bacterial infections in infancy and childhood. The