

Dr. Adler said E. S. Faust has separated in crystalline form the two parts of the toxin of botulinus. Both were soluble in alcohol and were very resistant to heat. One gave the gastro-intestinal symptoms and the other the nervous symptoms. Their effect was something like that of atropine and curare. This is the first time a poison has been separated in crystalline form which has stood the test of time.

Dr. Fairbanks, in answer to Dr. Taylor's question, said that the usual bacteria found in ice cream are *B. enteriditis* and *B. paratyphosus*. He thought that his case was a coincidence and not one of poisoning. There is no record that shows that these bacilli produce paralysis. *B. botulinus* can not grow in ice cream. Dr. Fairbanks also said that he had found no evidence to answer Dr. Swift's questions. Dr. Fairbanks said that he had not seen the observations to which Dr. Adler alluded.

MARCH 16, 1916

The President, DR. EDWARD B. LANE, in the Chair

SUCCESSFUL PREGNANCY IN A GENERAL PARETIC

By Harry C. Solomon, M.D.

Pregnancy in a general paretic is uncommon. On the other hand, it is not uncommon for a male paretic to become the father of healthy children. He had two such cases under observation at the present time in which at the time of conception the men were suffering from general paresis.

The subject of this communication was a woman of thirty-eight years of age, whose first child had died within the first few months after birth with spinal deformity. This was followed by two miscarriages. She first showed symptoms of general paresis in February, 1913. After a slight remission, symptoms again appeared in November, 1914, and from that time on she grew progressively worse, until she entered the Psychopathic Hospital on January 1, 1915.

On physical examination it was found that her pupils were irregular and reacted sluggishly to light, that her blood Wassermann was positive, and that her spinal fluid gave a positive Wassermann and showed the other characteristics of general paresis. Under two months of antispecific treatment she was so much improved mentally that she was allowed to leave the hospital. Her blood and spinal fluid Wassermann were both positive at this time. In September, 1915, she gave birth to an apparently normal, full-term girl, whose blood Wassermann was negative. The patient up to date has remained in good health.

Dr. Knapp recalled one case of conjugal paresis, in which the husband and wife showed marked signs. The wife later became pregnant and was a patient at the McLean Hospital and was delivered there. He did not know the fate of the child, but he knew that both the father and the mother had paresis. If the child was healthy, it would seem to be a case like the one Dr. Solomon has reported. We know that a certain portion of syphilitics after ten to fifteen years can have healthy children.

FOUR MENTAL CASES OF OVER SEVEN YEARS' DURATION WITH RECOVERIES

By Arthur H. Ruggles, M.D.

The four cases were all women over thirty-three years of age, with periods of confinement from seven and a half to ten years, and each termi-