

**Gessner: Why Are the Placental Theories of Eclampsia, Especially Hofbauer's Ideas of Placental Ferment Intoxication, Untenable?**  
*Zentralblatt für Gynäkologie*, 1921, xiii, 469.

Observation of cases of eclampsia, associated with hydatid mole or without fetus made possible Veit's placental theory of eclampsia, a poisoning with syncytiotoxin.

Further investigation proved that the placenta had nothing of the character of an antigen and this theory fell to the ground. Hofbauer thought the condition resembled anaphylactic shock, but there was no similarity between these conditions, since lower temperature, lower blood pressure, and lessened coagulability of the blood are absent in eclampsia. Today Hofbauer has given up this idea, but still believes in an intoxication as the result of a poison from the placenta, a so-called ferment intoxication. This theory, based on an altogether wrong idea, i.e., that the human race is the only one in which eclampsia is present, falls to the ground when it is realized that many other animals with similar placental circulation do not have diseases similar to the eclampsia of the human, but on the other hand, animals with different placentation have diseases similar to eclampsia.

In certain cases large quantities of placental ferment may reach the maternal blood without damage to the maternal liver or kidneys. For example, in chronic nephritis, even if there is a marked infarction of the placenta and a sudden discharge of ferments into the maternal blood, eclampsia is comparatively rare. If a nephritic, or a patient with damaged liver can overcome a sudden discharge of such ferment into her circulation, it would appear reasonable that a healthy individual would be affected even less.

W. M. LITTLE.

**Zweifel: The Fetal and Placental Theories of Eclampsia.** *Zeitschrift für Immunitätsforschung und Experimentelle Therapie*, 1921, xxxi, 22.

After a thorough consideration of all the various theories so far advanced to explain eclampsia, the writer takes up in particular the idea of Weichardt that eclampsia represents an anaphylactic shock. Much literature has been published to repudiate this theory, and a series of careful experiments, carried out by Zweifel, force him also to the definite conclusion that this is merely a speculative hypothesis. The injection of fetal and placental albumen from one animal into another of the same species does not cause that hypersensitiveness which would be essential for the development of an anaphylactic shock.

HUGO EHRENFEST.

**Van Cauwenberghe: Tuberculosis and Eclampsia.** *Gynécologie et Obstétrique*, 1921, iii, 428.

The coexistence of tuberculosis and eclampsia during pregnancy is of such rare occurrence and of such interest that it warrants attention. Three years after the birth of patient's fourth child tuberculosis of both apices was diagnosed. Three months of treatment improved her general condition. Six months after tuberculosis had been diagnosed, she had a miscarriage followed by a curettage. Almost immediately afterwards she again became pregnant and her general condition be-