

**THE PRACTICAL MEDICINE SERIES,
COMPRISING TEN VOLUMES ON THE
YEAR'S PROGRESS IN MEDICINE AND
SURGERY. VOLUME V: PEDIATRICS;
ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY. SERIES 1914**

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CHARLES L. MIX & ROGER T. VAUGHAN & ISAAC A. ABT

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THE
Practical Medicine Series

COMPRISING TEN VOLUMES ON THE YEAR'S PROGRESS
IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY

UNDER THE GENERAL EDITORIAL CHARGE OF

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VOLUME V

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PEDIATRICS.

DISEASES OF THE NEWBORN.

Treatment of Hemorrhagic Diseases of the Newborn.
J. B. Manning¹ reports a case of hemorrhage of the newborn, appearing in the stools, treated successfully by the injection of horse serum and serum withdrawn from the father. After 96 hours the blood had completely disappeared.

The writer sums up the literature of the serum treatment briefly as follows:

Serum. Weil, in 1907, first began the use of fresh serum injections to supply the conditions necessary for the actual increase in coagulability of the blood. He recommended horse, rabbit or human serum. In 1908 Leary used fresh rabbit serum from a cardiac puncture in a number of conditions in which hemorrhage was a prominent feature. Bigelow, also Lucas, reported favorable results with rabbit serum injections. Horse serum appears to be of less value than rabbit, probably because it is not fresh. Very recently Bluhdon reported 3 cases treated in this manner with horse serum with excellent results.

Human Blood Serum. Welsh reported, in 1910, 12 cases of hemorrhagic disease in the newborn with very favorable results, treated with subcutaneous injections of human serum. Subsequently the total of Welsh's cases was increased to 32 cases. Nicholson published a report following this of 6 cases treated in this manner, of which 5 died. Richards and also Unger reported favorable results. R. Franz, in 1912, reported 35 cases treated with human blood serum with a mortality of 50.9%. These were all cases of gastroenteric hemorrhage.

Whole Human Blood. Schloss and Commiskey, in

(1) Northwest Med., August, 1913.

1911, in an excellent paper on hemorrhagic disease in the newborn, reported 7 cases treated by whole human blood, used instead of human serum, with extremely favorable results. Whole blood is easier to obtain and can be used immediately without waiting for the serum to separate. In most of their cases it was taken directly from the veins in the forearm of one of the parents by means of an exploratory syringe and injected immediately into the infant's back. Meyers and Boyd, following this method, obtaining blood from the placenta, reported favorable results. In a second article Schloss and Commiskey increased their series to 9 cases, claiming it as an efficacious, simple, harmless procedure so far as can be judged from their cases. They conclude that where the bleeding is profuse and, as a rule, with a tendency to become quickly fatal, transfusion often gives the best results.

Transfusion. This method, as recommended by Sombert, Carroll and others, offers the best line of treatment for desperate cases, but it is so difficult that but few can attempt it.

Cooley² advocates the transfusion of human blood in the hemorrhagic disorders of childhood. The technical skill required has heretofore stood in the way of this, but recently there has been more than one suggestion of simple methods for accomplishing the operation. Crile's method is an improvement over direct suture or the older canula methods, but is not readily applicable to babies. Vaughan and Cooley have described a method which required no special apparatus, and which they have found to be really as easy as any intravenous injection. It consists simply in drawing blood from the donor's vein into a glass syringe and injecting it rapidly into the vein of the recipient. A small amount of salt-solution is drawn into the syringe before and after the blood, to prevent clots forming. The only requisite for success, apparently, is to have everything so prepared that one may work fast and keep within the time-limit of coagulation.

In summing up his studies the author presents the following conclusions:

(2) Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc., Oct. 4, 1913.