

to 1863, when it fell to 15 per cent. During this time a mayor was elected who was interested in public health and the care of children, and although not a physician he did his utmost for the health of the people. The low death rate just described has been obtained by the son of the former mayor, who studied medicine to obtain knowledge with which to carry out plans for the welfare of the people. In this commune every pregnant woman, married or unmarried, who needs help can apply to the village authorities, and must do so before the seventh month. The patient may select a competent midwife, who must examine her, and if albuminuria, abnormal presentation, or other abnormalities be discovered the midwife must notify the village authorities, who then causes the patient to select a physician. If the patient remains in bed six days after her confinement she has an allowance from the village for her expenses for each day. Mothers or nurses who can show a healthy nursing child a year old are entitled to municipal grants. Other regulations were made providing for the sterilization of milk and the welfare of infants placed out to nurse. It is true that these statistics are obtained in a small village with simple rural conditions, nor are the statistics available of the population, number of births, and changes in population due to immigration. These facts make the statistics less valuable and others more accurate. They are, however, still interesting, and the simple regulations enforced and their success are certainly suggestive.

The Internal Secretion of the Pancreas in its Relation to Pregnancy.

—FALCO (*Annali di ostetricia*, No. 1, 1916) has made researches upon animals in the pregnant condition, extirpating the pancreas and then studying the condition of the animal. He finds that the removal of the pancreas seems to diminish somewhat the growth in function and activity of the cells in Langhan's layers of the syncytium. The extirpation of the pancreas does not cause pregnancy to terminate, nor does it produce glycosuria. It naturally produces the symptoms of pancreatic diabetes. This does not seem to influence the internal secretion of the fetal pancreas, as evidently the abnormal products formed in the mother's body are disposed of by the fetus and by the placenta. The placenta evidently has an important part in the disposition of physiological products in the mother and fetus.

Viburnum Prunifolium to Prevent Abortion.—In recent numbers of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* has appeared the testimony given in a suit brought against the *Journal* in which various statements are made concerning the efficiency of viburnum in preventing or checking abortion. The reader of these conflicting statements must judge for himself. So far as the reviewer's experience goes he has no positive and accurate evidence that viburnum prevents or stimulates uterine contraction, or prevents or stimulates abortion. He has used it, but always in compounds with other drugs whose actions are well known. So far as his experience goes two medicinal substances lessen or prevent contraction of the uterus. One comprises that class acting as sedatives to the general nervous system, of which bromide of sodium is a good example. The other is opium, the most reliable drug which we possess in preventing uterine contraction and lessening its vigor.