

Obituary.

PIERRE BUDIN.

PIERRE BUDIN was of humble origin, and was born at Enancourt-le-sec, Vexin, in November 1846. He began his medical studies in 1867. He was nominated a hospital "externe" at the end of his second year, and as a result of the "concours" at the end of 1871 he became "interne." From the beginning of his internat he resolved to take up obstetrics as his special study, and began to work by the side of, and under the direction of, Professor Tarnier. He graduated M.D. in 1876, and became "chef-de-clinique" in 1878. In 1880 he was nominated "Professeur agrégé." In 1882 the "Assistance publique" decided to create four hospital accoucheurs, and at a "concours" to fill these posts Budin obtained the first place. From 1882 to 1895 he was in charge of the midwifery service at the Charité Hospital. In 1895 he passed to the maternity; and in 1898 he succeeded Tarnier as Professor of Midwifery in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Paris. He was elected a member of the French Academy of Medicine in 1889. He was chosen a "corresponding Fellow" of the Obstetrical Society of London in 1876: a meaningless title which was replaced in 1899 by the high distinction of being made one of the ten foreign subjects whom the rules of that Society allow as its Honorary Fellows. He was attached to many other societies, in France and elsewhere, too numerous to name: for his interests were wide and his reputation was extensive. His first original work was that in which he demonstrated the advantage to the child of delaying ligation of the cord until it had ceased pulsating. His thesis for his doctor's degree in 1876 dealt with the mensuration of the foetal head and its moulding during delivery. In his thesis of agregation he studied the traumatisms of women during parturition.

Budin's illustrious and beloved master, Professor Tarnier, brought out, in 1882, in collaboration with Chantreuil, the first volume of a treatise on midwifery, which described most fully and carefully the anatomy and physiology of the genital organs, normal pregnancy, labour, lying-in, and infantile life. In the preparation of the second volume, which treats of the pathology of pregnancy, Tarnier chose

Budin as his helper, and this volume appeared in 1886. The work was completed in two further volumes, published after Tarnier's death. In these Budin was assisted by some other eminent French obstetricians. This book holds its place as one of the fullest and most trustworthy authorities on the subject that we have. In 1904 Budin in collaboration with Dr. Demelin published a résumé of the larger work and of his work entitled "*Le nourrisson*" under the title "*Manuel pratique d'accouchements et d'allaitement.*"

The work to which the last twelve or more years of his life were given, was the diminution of infantile mortality. He founded in 1892 in Paris, weekly "*consultations des nourrissons.*" In later years similar "*consultations*" were established by him in many provincial centres. At these "*consultations*" mothers were instructed to bring their babies, to have them weighed and examined, and to have records kept as to their food and other important matters. Under the auspices of M. Waldeck-Rousseau, Budin founded a league against infantile mortality, the object of which was to fight by all means, by lectures, publications, and practical help, against the ignorance and misery which carry off so many young lives. His last days were spent at Marseilles, whither he went to supervise the establishment of "*consultations*" for nursing mothers. There he contracted influenza pneumonia, which proved fatal on January 22nd last.

Budin's great work was the organization of obstetrical teaching in Paris, and the establishment of the league against infantile mortality. He was a man of slight physique, but great power of work and strength of will. He was a diagnostician rather than an operator. He was fond of his profession, courteous and loyal to his friends and colleagues, and beloved by his pupils, among whom he insisted upon strict discipline. He is a loss not only to France, but to medical science all over the world.

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from such a different point of view that his methods and teachings are in some respects diametrically opposed to those of Roussel. This is particularly emphasized in Budin's recent book, "The Nursling" (English translation, p. 125), where he deprecates the fact that the law of Roussel forbids any woman with an infant under 7 months of age to act as wet nurse, claiming that many such mothers might nurse two children and save both. In his enthusiasm he loses sight of the fact that in the days of Roussel a very large per cent. of the wet nurses so employed allowed their own infants to starve in order to satisfy their employers.

Budin will always be known as the founder of the "Consultations for Nurslings," the first of which he organized in 1892 in connection with his obstetrical service at the Charité. The work was later carried on at the Maternité, and it was brought to its present high level at the Clinique Tarnier, to which Budin had been appointed. The original "Consultation" in 1892, was the result of a systematic effort to preserve the health of the infants born at the Charité by having the mothers bring them back periodically for inspection, weighing and advice. From this small beginning the "Consultations" and "Gouttes de Lait" have spread over the continent, and during this month of September—12th to 16th—the second "Congress International des Gouttes de Lait" is being held in Brussels.

A system that has met with such general favor throughout Europe is certainly worthy of careful study in this country, and nowhere could a better spot be found than here in this Borough of Brooklyn. Although attention has frequently been called to

THE LATE PIERRE BUDIN AND HIS WORK.

ON the 23rd of last January there died in Paris, Pierre Budin, who will be remembered for many years as one of the first and most successful movers in the campaign against the French infant mortality. Over a generation ago Roussel, by the enactment of a law preventing the indiscriminate traffic in wet nurses, struck a blow at the primary cause of this serious menace to the prosperity of France. At that time Pierre Budin was just completing his medical studies, but he had already made such a reputation for zeal and energy that his fellow students declared it useless to compete for appointments that he coveted. This man was destined to take up the problem that Roussel had studied with good results; but he approached it

the fact, the profession at large does not seem to be aware that in this "city of homes" the summer infant death rate from diarrheal diseases is much higher than in crowded Manhattan. Yet the statistics are published year after year. The most recent figures—for the four weeks ending July 27th—are as follows:

Deaths from diarrheal diseases under five years: Manhattan, 451; Brooklyn, 612.

Many beneficent agencies are at work in Brooklyn, supplying proper food, pleasant outings, and medical attendance for sick babies, but practically nothing is being done for the systematic care of well infants or for the instruction of their mothers. One commercial house has done more than all the other agencies put together in this line, while incidentally exploiting the infant food which it manufactures.

The great secret of the success of Budin's work was its simplicity and common sense. His paraphernalia consisted of scales and a sterilizer, but to these was added an enthusiasm that inspired confidence. Once a week from birth, or from the time that they first apply, the infants are brought to the Consultation. A card index contains all the essential facts of age, weight at birth, and weekly weights thereafter, together with notes on the food. In this way the infants are kept under strict watch, the mothers are constantly instructed in proper methods of care and the food is changed from time to time as indicated. A very useful feature of the work is the friendly rivalry that is excited among the mothers to see which baby shall gain the most and look the best, week after week. The extraordinary decrease in death rate in some cities resulting from the es-

tablishment of Consultations is sufficient proof of their practical value.

To the American practitioner the almost universal use of undiluted boiled milk for children of all ages comes as a revelation. Its use may explain in a measure the great frequency with which wet nurses are employed in Europe. Perhaps many of the children for whom a wet nurse is considered a necessity would thrive on modified cow's milk if greater attention were paid to its modification. On the other hand if in this city a group of normal bottle-fed infants was supervised from the time the bottle was brought into use, it is probable that nearly all would thrive on whole milk carefully administered. The very general custom of boiling milk on the continent seems strange, and we have visions of innumerable cases of infantile scorbutus. Strange as it may seem scorbutus is a rare disease in France. Broca, in a recent lecture on this disease, says: "These cases are rare in France, but frequent in England and America, where flourishes a mania for infants' foods more or less complex in character." To understand the reason for sterilization it must be remembered that refrigeration is practically unknown on the continent, and that milk production, as a rule, receives almost no sanitary supervision.

Louis C. Ager.