

showing that in some way or another the Doctor or Nurse was the carrier of the contagion. All this is now explained by the discovery that the disease is a form of blood-poisoning, due, it is believed, to the presence of minute living organisms, called microbes or bacteria, which gain an entrance into the patient's body through the genital canal, either during or soon after delivery. Some light was thrown on the manner in which these disease-germs are conveyed to the genital organs of the lying-in woman, when attention was drawn to the fact that women delivered without assistance almost invariably escaped the disease. This circumstance, taken together with the known communicability of the disease through the medium of the Doctor, Midwife, or Nurse, made it seem more than probable that the poison was conveyed by the touch of those in attendance, or by the use of unclean sponges, injection pipes, instruments, or other appliances used in the lying-in room. It has now been fully proved that this inference was correct. It has been shown in the most convincing manner, that if the hands of the attendants—that is, the Doctor and Nurse—and all the appliances used by them, are rendered antiseptically clean by the systematic use of certain chemical substances that possess the power of destroying disease-germs, puerperal fever seldom occurs. I have had placed on the walls some tables showing the results of the introduction of antiseptics into various Lying-in Hospitals, and I think you will agree with me that those results are very striking. In the first table, which gives the statistics of the Imperial Lying-in Hospital at Vienna, the largest Institution of the kind in the world, you will

TABLE I.

Imperial Lying-in Hospital, Vienna.

Date.	Deliveries.	Deaths.	Per 1,000.
1863—80	68,770	1,117	16
1881—85	15,070	106	7
Deaths from Puerperal Fever: 1863—80, 13 per 1,000; 1881—85, 4 per 1,000.			

see that the rate of mortality was diminished to less than half on the introduction of antiseptics in 1881, the total mortality falling from sixteen to seven per thousand, and the mortality from puerperal fever from thirteen per thousand to four per thousand.

The results at Dresden were even more remarkable.

TABLE II.

Dresden.

Date.	Deliveries.	Deaths from Puerperal Fever arising in the Hospital.	Per 1,000.
1884	1,368	12	8.7
1885	1,365	2	1.4
1886	1,387	2	1.4
1887	1,388	1	0.7

The two following tables show the marvellous reduction in the mortality from puerperal fever since antiseptics have been used in the Lying-in Hospitals of New York and Boston, the results improving from year to year, as experience was gained.

TABLE III.

New York Maternity Hospital.

Year Ending	Deliveries.	Deaths from Puerperal Fever.	Per 1,000.
Sept., 1883	429	26	60.6
" 1884	505	3	5.9
" 1885	541	1	1.8
" 1886	463	1	2.1

TABLE IV.

Boston Lying-in Hospital.

Date.	Deliveries.	Deaths from Puerperal Fever.	Per 1,000.
1882	288	16	55.5
1883	242	11	45.8
1884	310	5	16.1
1885	308	2	6.4
1886	373	0	0

In Paris the death-rate before the introduction of antiseptics was twenty-three per thousand, now it is only eleven per thousand.

TABLE V.

Paris Maternité.

Date.	Mortality per 1,000.
1870—81	23
1882—87	11

To come nearer home, I am able to show you what has been accomplished at the York Road Lying-in Hospital.

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