

the motions most foul; the tongue dry, the breath of a peculiar, sweetish odour. Finally, on the fifth day delirium set in, and for the first time vomiting began.

Up to this time, in spite of the severity of the symptoms, there had been no additional loss of strength; on the contrary, there seemed to be some improvement in the heart's action, and one had been able to feel that such strength as there was, was being well maintained.

The diet was of the lightest and most nourishing, and the quantity taken in the twenty-four hours was each day considerable. Bengér (made with half milk and half water) and raw meat juice, given in very small quantities, very frequently, were the main articles of diet. Brandy, beginning with 4 oz., rapidly increased up to 10 oz., was given in small quantities at short intervals.

An intra-uterine douche was given morning and evening for five days, at first corrosive sublimate, then, from fear of mercurial poisoning, changed to creolin.

On the fifth day (twenty-third after delivery) a doctor of great experience, who was much interested in the case, urged very strongly that anti-streptococcus serum should be tried without delay. This serum was then at the beginning of its trial. He had great hope that it would succeed in this case.

We wired for it and the prescribed quantity was injected (at 8 p.m. on the fifth day of treatment).

Within an hour the temperature had fallen  $1\frac{1}{2}$  degs. It continued to fall through the night. At 8 a.m. it was 101.8 deg. Delirium at once ceased, all inclination to vomiting passed away. There was no more diarrhoea. A second injection of serum was given at 8 a.m., and within twenty-four hours the temperature was normal.

The effect of the injections was indeed startling. Such rapid results seemed almost incredible. It was like the wand of a magician.

The patient lost her shrunken look, she became clear and intelligent, food was taken readily in larger and larger quantities and with the best result, the involution of the uterus proceeded most satisfactorily, and everything went forward on a straight path towards recovery.

Very careful and regular feeding (still for a time principally with Bengér, the milk gradually increased, the quantity of water decreased, the brandy lessened in quantity, and before long dropped), milk in different forms to the end made the chief article of diet—absolute rest of mind and body and a strict recumbent position even when strength was returning, to avoid risk to the heart, vaginal douche twice a day—all these details had to be scrupulously carried out for a considerable time. But every day saw decided improvement, and time and care were all that was asked for.

With the anti-streptococcus serum and the directions for its injection had come an urgent request

for a detailed account of the case, and of the result of the injections, as the serum was on its trial. I had kept a record of the case from the time of taking charge, and the doctor signed these notes, and sent them in.

Shortly after the patient was able to go out in a bath-chair, I was obliged to leave her. Her later convalescence, I heard, was a tedious one, the condition of anæmia from the loss of blood taking time to overcome. But change of air with good food, succeeded in restoring her to perfect health.

It may be inferred that the work of disinfection and the destruction of irrigator and other articles used was somewhat considerable. Even after every precaution one did not *feel* oneself to be aseptic for a long time! Fortunately, I was not engaged in mid-wifery work at the time.

I sent a description of the strange-looking object that had been the occasion of so much anxiety to Dr. Herman. He very kindly replied that it was a *Fœtus Papyraceus* (shrivelled fœtus), a twin that had died during pregnancy. A. M. S.

## The British Red Cross Society.

### APPEAL FROM THE QUEEN TO THE WOMEN OF THE EMPIRE.

At the instance and under the auspices of their Majesties the King and Queen, it was recently decided that a new Red Cross Society be formed, to co-ordinate all those existing societies which are concerned with the succour of the sick and wounded in war.

A Council has been appointed by their Majesties, under the presidency of the Queen, with Lord Rothschild as Chairman and Lord Knutsford, Lord Esher, Lord Cheylesmore, and Mr. A. Loyd, M.P., as Vice-Chairmen.

The first meeting of the Council was held on Monday at Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty the Queen presided, and said:—It has been on my mind ever since the South African War and I became the President to try and reorganise the Red Cross Society on a more practical and sound basis. It affords me, therefore, the greatest satisfaction to learn that the Red Cross Council has consented to join hands with the National Aid Society, founded by that distinguished soldier the late Lord Wantage under one title, "The British Red Cross Society." I therefore propose that this new organisation should be based upon membership and association, and the members and associates of the Society shall be recruited from all classes throughout the Empire. The Society shall be entirely voluntary, and while in touch with the War Office and Admiralty, the Society shall be organised and act wholly independently of those departments in time of peace, but naturally in time of war it

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)