

The contents of the book are arranged in seven parts—i.e. (I.) Anatomical and Physiological, (II.) Pregnancy in its Regular Course, (III.) Natural Labour, (IV.) The Lying-in Period and its Management, (V.) Irregular Pregnancy, (VI.) Irregular Labour, (VII.) Irregularities during the Lying-in Period.

We may usefully draw attention to the system of disinfection suggested after a midwife has been in contact with a case of puerperal fever:—

“Special care in disinfection is incumbent on all who have had to do with a case of puerperal fever before they attend another labour. The student or midwife who is attached to a lying-in hospital is, of course, to be guided by the rules which are issued by the hospital on this subject. Authorities differ somewhat as to what constitutes thorough disinfection, but the following precautions are generally accepted as being sufficient.

“The midwife or nurse on returning from a septic case must have a hot bath prepared, and an entirely fresh set of clothing laid out for her by someone whose hands have not been contaminated. The outer clothing must then be removed and tied up in a bundle. She must then thoroughly cleanse her hands and arms with soap and water, then rinse them in clean water, and finally soak them for not less than ten minutes in the perchloride solution. A more thorough way of disinfecting the hands is, after a preliminary washing, to soak them in a strong solution of permanganate of potash (two tablespoonfuls of the crystals in a pint of water) until they are stained a deep brown colour. The brown staining is removed by soaking the hands in a strong solution of oxalic acid (four tablespoonfuls in a pint of water); then the perchloride solution may be used. Having cleansed her hands, the midwife should carefully wash herself from head to foot, and then put on the clean clothing. The clothes which have been taken off must be thoroughly disinfected before they are again worn. The midwife or nurse must remember that these clothes, until they are disinfected, are a source of danger, and must therefore not touch them. The disinfection of clothes is undertaken in the larger towns by the health department. If the midwife lives in a locality where there is no provision of this sort, the clothes may be disinfected by putting them to steep for some hours in a 1 in 20 solution of carbolic acid. It is advisable for the midwife to allow a week to elapse before she attends another case. During this week she should repeatedly disinfect her hands.”

An Unsolicited Testimonial.

Enter smiling mother with child.

“He’s ever so much better, Sir.”

(Doctor, who has been trying a new remedy for an intractable complaint, is much pleased, makes elaborate notes, and repeats the medicine.)

Mother: “I was going to ask you to change the medicine, because a lady in our house said it were too strong for ’im, so she made him some saffron tea, and I give him that instead, and it did him a world of good!”—*Hospital Sketches*,

New Preparations, Inventions, &c.

“BOROFAX.”

“Borofax,” which is a preparation supplied by Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome, is an emollient possessing antiseptic and sedative properties. It is superior to ointment or glycerin of boric acid in therapeutic action, readiness of absorption, pharmaceutical elegance, and freedom from rancidity.

It encourages healing of superficial lesions, and,



therefore, is a valuable application for chaps, burns, scalds and abrasions.

It is beneficial and soothing to the skin after driving, motoring, cycling, or exposure to extremes of temperature.

“Borofax” is supplied in collapsible tubes of two sizes.

ICILMA.

One of the minor evils of life, but a very real one, is irritation of the skin. To this statement we feel sure that all nurses who reside in the tropics and suffer or have suffered from prickly heat will readily subscribe. We desire, therefore, to direct the attention of our readers to the properties of Icilma Water, a natural African spring water, which possesses remarkable tonic and cleansing properties, and which has the advantage of being non-poisonous. In cases of prickly heat, mosquito bites, stings of wasps and bees, and kindred conditions it is most useful in allaying irritation, and it is also claimed that it at once allays pain if applied to burns, cuts, and bruises. For stings and bites the application of a few drops of the water will usually prove sufficient. For a more extended surface the best method of application is by means of a vulcanite spray.

For toilet purposes the advantage of an agent which cleanses the pores of the skin, as Icilma Water does, rather than a powder, which, while it cools, clogs them, is obvious. The effect of the natural salts in Icilma is to neutralise the acids in the perspiration. Thus Nature is assisted to perform her own functions, and Nature’s methods are obviously the best.

The peace of a nursery is often disturbed by the cries of a child, who has no other means of announcing his discomfort. The first thing is to discover the cause, and if this arises from irritation of the skin the application of Icilma Water will often allay the discomfort. As a preventive of such a condition it may be sprayed warm on the infant’s skin after bathing, and allowed to dry on. It should preferably be used in conjunction with Icilma Natural Water Soap. Another Icilma preparation is Icilma Fluor Cream, which is frequently recommended as a substitute for cold cream,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)