

cavity—it is possible to pass it not only into the cavity, but *through the uterine wall*, and so to cause the death of the patient. The tube used must be one specially made for the purpose, of either glass or celluloid; and should be grooved to facilitate the return of the fluid. It must be sterilized and covered with a lubricant. The patient being placed over a bed bath the nurse must then insert the first and second fingers of her left hand within the os uteri and gently pass the tube between these, instructing an assistant to keep her hand over the uterus meanwhile. Upon the withdrawal of the tube the nurse must exercise pressure over the uterus in order to expel all the fluid.

THROMBOSIS AND EMBOLISM.

Thrombosis and embolism are also complications which may occur during the lying-in period. A *thrombus* is a clot of blood which remains in the vessel in which it is formed, impeding or obstructing the circulation. An *embolism* is a thrombus carried by the circulation to a distance. It will be realized that should an embolism be carried into some of the smaller vessels, notably those in the lungs, serious symptoms, and even death may occur quite suddenly. Should a patient apparently die of embolism, artificial respiration should be at once proceeded with until medical aid arrives. In cases which have been apparently hopeless, animation has, after the lapse of a considerable time, been restored when this measure has been adopted.

The most familiar form of thrombosis is phlegmasia dolens, commonly known as "white leg." An obstetric nurse should always bear in mind the possibility of this sequela, and any hardness, or tenderness, in either leg of a lying-in woman should never be lightly regarded. Prompt treatment of this, such as painting with fluid belladonna plaster may often avert incipient phlegmasia dolens, a condition which, if once established, entails weeks of absolute rest in bed, and a weary and protracted convalescence. The tendency of lying-in women to thrombosis and embolism is probably due to two causes. Firstly, the loss of blood, which occurs during delivery, deprives the patient of a considerable amount of serum, a condition which always favours blood clotting, and secondly, the clots which are formed on the placental site may become detached, and carried into the circulation.

(To be continued.)

Medical Matters.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS.



A VALUABLE article has just been published by Mr. Henry J. Davis upon the gunshot injuries which the surgeons of the *Daily Chronicle* National Fund were called upon to treat during the late Græco-Turkish War. He draws attention to the facts of the serious injuries of bones and joints caused by modern projectiles, and once more shows that the Lee-Mitford bullets perforate through soft tissues without causing immediate disablement. A curious instance of this is quoted by the author in which three shots went "clean through" an old donkey which was eating hay in a paddock. The animal went on eating as though nothing unusual had happened, and it was not until internal hæmorrhage or inflammation followed that the animal desisted from its meal. And in the recent Chitral Expedition the same result was frequently noticed, and the natives were not checked in their wild rushes, even although struck by the Lee-Mitford bullets. These consist of a soft lead core coated with a nickel casing, and therefore the perforation of soft tissues which takes place can be easily understood. The experience of these effects has led to the nickel jacket being removed from the nose of the bullet, and thus, when it enters the tissues, the soft lead expands into a disc, splashing, so to speak, into the tissues, and so causing a very extensive wound, which has been found in warfare to cause immediate disablement. The Dum-Dum bullets which have been used in the recent Indian Frontier War resemble a slate pencil in shape, and are said, on entering the body, to flatten out like a concertina, and so cause tremendous lacerations. Various instances are given by the author of the injuries caused by modern projectiles, and it is interesting to hear that the X Rays proved to be invaluable in locating the fragments of metal in the deeper tissues; this, of course, being the first instance in European warfare in which the new photography has exhibited its practical utility.

BACTERIOLOGY.

AN excellent illustration of the practical usefulness to which scientific discoveries can

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