

mediate organic connection between mother and offspring.

Under the term *disorder* we may conveniently classify the following morbid conditions associated with or dependent on the act and process of birth:

1. Injuries incident to birth.
2. Disorders incident to the change from intra to extra-uterine life.
3. Disorders connected with the navel.
4. Infectious disorders of the newborn.

Some of these you will see at once are more or less "avoidable" disorders. Others in the present state of our knowledge, and under present conditions of life and work, must be considered to a great extent "unavoidable."

It is for us as far as lies in our power to make what now seem "unavoidable" disorders "avoidable," and to see that our individual effort and influence shall *prevent* the occurrence of all "avoidable" ills.

Now let me say at once that it is not my intention to describe to you the various disorders occurring in the newborn in order that you may attempt their rectification and treatment. That is the duty of the skilled and experienced medical attendant. My object rather is to help you to prevent, as far as lies within your power the development of disorders. Many disorders, both those of the nature of injuries, as well as disease, are preventible, and a well trained, able, and far-seeing nurse may often stay the oncoming of disaster, and even when this is not possible, or when derangement has occurred, may mitigate its severity, and by prompt action secure the best means for its speedy arrest and rectification.

CAUSATION OF DISORDERS CONNECTED WITH BIRTH.

To discuss adequately the causation of the many disorders incident to birth would take many lectures, and all important though such a study may be, we must not linger on this section of our subject.

I must, however, remind you of some of the conditions leading up to and directly or indirectly causing many of the disorders it is our object and desire to lessen and prevent:

1. Lack of attention prior to birth. A proper care and supervision of the expectant mother would obviate many of the dangers and difficulties of parturition.

2. Absence of skilled attendance during labour. Prolonged, abnormal, and mismanaged labour is answerable not only for much of the maternal sorrow and suffering, but for serious disablement and loss as regards the infant.

3. Instrumental or manual interference may when improperly employed lead to injury of the infant.

4. Injury may also result from abnormal delay in the passage of the infant through the maternal passages. At this time actual traumatism may be produced.

5. Infection is also an accident which is only too common. Organisms of different kinds are allowed access to the tissues of the newborn infant, either through the umbilical wound, the eyes, the mouth, or abrasions.

6. Lastly, we must remember that the profound changes which occur both in the structures and functions of the independent life, may themselves lead to derangement and disorder, which, while fortunately in most cases only of temporary duration, may in some be of such a character as to threaten life.

BIRTH INJURIES.

It is only possible to summarise the injuries incident to birth, with the object of placing before you a general outline which you can fill in at your leisure. These injuries have been conveniently grouped under the following heads:

1. Abrasions and open wounds of the skin. These may be caused by the application of instruments by the medical attendant, by clumsy handling by the attendant midwife, or by scratches on the part of the nurse. They are of importance because if a breach in the continuity of the skin is made, an open way is provided for invading organisms.

2. Ecchymoses. Hæmorrhages, or extravasation of blood under and into the skin, and bruising of the skin, may be caused by the pressure exercised by the bony canal through which the child has to pass, by the action of instruments, or by neglect and want of skill on the part of attendants.

3. Wounds of the soft parts.

4. Fractures and injuries of bones.

5. Rupture of internal organs.

6. Tearing off entire portions of the body.

CAPUT SUCCEDANEUM.

Swellings are often met with over the presenting part, and resulting from the process of delivery. These, from the positions where they most commonly occur, are termed "head-swellings," and "breech-swellings."

It is important to differentiate between the temporary swelling, in which the effusion of blood is external to the peri-cranium, and a cephal-hæmatoma in which effusion takes place beneath the peri-cranium.

(To be concluded.)

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