

(b), and, while the reduction in (a) was one degree, that in (b) was two, and more prolonged in its action. Moreover, in (b) the shreds and some small clots came away in greater quantity, which I feel is due to the fact that corrosive sublimate lotion attacks the mucous membrane and brings away the areas which are affected by membranous attachments, and which are the foci of germ implantation.

4. Uterine contraction was necessary, hence the following mixture was prescribed with benefit:—

R Tinct. ergotae am.	...	...	5ijss
Sp. ammoniac aromatic	...	...	5ijss
Aquam, adde	...	...	5vijj

M. Sig. Two tablespoonfuls three times a day.

5. The bowels were acted upon when necessary with oleum ricini, and an occasional enema.

6. Sleep was procured with full doses of potassii bromidi at bedtime.

7. The temperature, though lowered to some degree by the above treatment, did not lower satisfactorily, nor as steadily from day to day until aspirin was given. The mode of administration was in the tabloid form—at first two tabloids of gr. v each t.d.s., then one tabloid, when the temperature lowered, and the skin became moist, while the patient slept; and last of all, only one tabloid at bedtime. With the lowering of the temperature sleep was more refreshing, hence the potassium bromide was discontinued, as aspirin seemed to act like a hypnotic. I think, on the whole, this drug is better borne than sodium salicylate in similar doses in a similar class of cases. With the lowering of the temperature and the obtaining of sleep, the appetite began to improve daily, when the diet from beef tea, milk, milk and soda, and barley water in regular quantities, was raised to a better standard from day to day until convalescence set in on the twelfth day after labour, when solids were allowed, and the diet the patient was accustomed to give. Half a glass of stout was allowed with her mid-day and evening meal, with much benefit to the mother and child.

I feel that in such a class of cases the surroundings of the patient, the bowels and liver, the uterus, and the circulatory apparatus have to be carefully watched and treated promptly.

The lowering of the temperature and pulse and the cleaning of the tongue cannot be attributed simply to regular douching alone, but to the regulating of the bowels, skin, and pulse.

The effect of the douching with (a) and (b) lotions undoubtedly attacked the foci of the affection in the uterus; but the unloading of the bowel and liver and the action of the aspirin through the blood upon the excretory apparatus had certainly a marked specific effect as well, and rendered the prompt action so necessary through the blood.

It has been suggested that in a certain number of puerperal cases alcohol is responsible for various manifestations, notably the rise in the temperature and delirium; but if one considers that in the pelvis of the woman after labour there are three important organs (the bladder, uterus and vagina, and the rectum) in close contact with each other, it is very obvious that the functions of each of these organs require strict atten-

tion before and after labour, for the simple reason that during labour there is very great pressure transmitted through the infant's head, which is about to pass the pelvic cavity during birth upon those organs which are placed between two bony surfaces. There is every chance, therefore, of solution of continuity of mucous membranes and other tissues, and the action of pathogenic germs.

Whether the *Bacillus coli* is not also associated with such cases, as in puerperal fever, which is sometimes caused by it, seems interesting at any rate to note. In the case in point the patient's condition was certainly one for anxiety, and there were undoubtedly certain toxins of the organisms named which were being poured out and creating symptoms which were on the road towards a puerperal attack from the symptoms manifest. A point of further interest was revealed later in this case and connected with former labours—namely, that the patient was never a satisfactory one, because there were signs of alcoholism. Now, in this particular class of cases it is very necessary to discriminate true alcoholism from the semblance of the effects of this article, for the toxins, in this particular stage of a case, might create a form of delirium or stupor, and alcohol, the usual cause assigned, is but an exciting or secondary cause. I am certain, however, from my careful observations of this case, alcohol was in no way responsible for the patient's peculiar manner.

The Bishop of London will preside at a meeting on behalf of the London Mothers' Convalescent Home, Sunningdale, at Vernon House, Park Place, St. James's, on Thursday, February 9th, at 3 o'clock.

Lady Meyer, Vice-Chairman of the St. Pancras School for Mothers, has kindly consented to lecture on Thursday at the Ladies' Empire Club, 69, Grosvenor Street, on "The Need of Schools for Mothers." A discussion will follow.

The necessity for providing for the payment of medical practitioners, called in to urgent cases of midwifery, is a question of which we hear much, and to which the attention of the Privy Council, and of Parliament, has also been directed. Yet until Mrs. Eddie, of the National Association of Midwives, drew attention to the matter in the *Co-operative News*, it does not seem to have occurred to anyone that the Midwives' Act Amendment Bill should provide for the payment of midwives as well as medical practitioners summoned in case of emergency. Yet if a midwife refuses to respond to a summons to a case until her fee is paid she is supposed to be heartless and culpable.

That midwives do attend many cases for which they never receive, or expect to receive a fee we are well aware, but that is no reason why a law should be enacted providing for the payment of the fees of medical practitioners, and leaving midwives who attend emergency cases without any guarantee that they will be recompensed for their work.

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