

Parametritis.—On each side of the uterus was a mass of tissue known as the broad ligament. In parametritis this was infected, generally from an infected tear of the cervix. As such tears are most common on the left side it usually developed on that side. The symptoms usually started on the day the patient got up. She would probably complain of pain on the left side, and of difficulty in walking. On pressing down over the pubes tenderness would be felt.

White Leg.—White leg was the result of a mild infection of the perinæum with clotting in the blood vessels and lymphatics of the broad ligament. The clot spread along the internal iliac vein and the external iliac which in turn became the femoral vein. When the two became infected white leg was the result. The symptoms were always late; occurring on the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth day. The onset was sudden. In a typical case the leg was large, white, firm and extremely tender. It looked œdematous, but would not indent. There was solid œdema of the leg. The temperature was extremely slight.

TREATMENT.

The treatment of the various cases was similar. First let the patient sit up, The discharges running away from the uterus had to drain, and in the recumbent position a pond of the lochia was formed. If micro-organisms from the vulva got into the pond some might float up into the uterus. If the lochia were infected the object was to get rid of stagnation. Most people give ergot. It could not do any harm, and might help to expel the clot or tissue left behind in the uterus.

Douches.—In regard to douches the lecturer said he did not like them, and never gave them unless he put his hand into the uterus when he gave an intra-uterine one. Ordinarily they were, he thought, more likely to wash organisms into the uterus than out of the vagina. If a patient had a torn perinæum, vagina, or cervix, a douche was absolutely contra-indicated.

In most cases the real treatment was a masterly inactivity. There were radically different views on this question. Some one said: "I am going to clear the uterus out"; another, "I am going to leave things alone." He had never been sorry for leaving things alone. On the other hand the more drastic treatment might stir things up.

In septicæmia feeding was of great importance and brandy was of great value.

Treatment by vaccines had not produced startling results.

For white leg there was one treatment, and one only, to keep the leg at rest, and the patient well fed. The leg should be bandaged.

PREVENTION.

In regard to prevention, the midwife should (1) do all in her power to be clean, and pay great attention to her own hands. The lecturer advocated anointing the hands with glycerine and sleeping in cotton gloves, a practice he himself adopted.

(2) Paint the vulva, buttocks and perineum with iodine, and examine as little as possible.

(3) Be very careful of the third stage. If fragments of chorion, or minute fragments of placenta were left behind they were very liable to get infected. Or a piece of chorion protruding through the cervix might act as a conductor by means of which organisms spread up into the uterus, on the same principle as a cotton wick acted as a conductor.

THE PREVENTION OF EAR DISEASE IN CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE.

The eleventh lecture of the special course on "Infant Care" was given on Tuesday, December 14th, at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, by Mr. Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S., His subject was "The Prevention of Ear Disease in Children under School Age."

He commenced by giving a brief outline of the structure of the throat, ear and nose, showing different sections of them on the screen. He hoped that a knowledge of these organs would further the preventive work of nurses in the several diseases relating to them. Speaking on the functions of the nose, he pointed out that its chief function was usually regarded as that of smell, whereas this was its least important function—and it was only by considerable effort that the centre of smell was reached. Much more important was its respiratory function, as it was the means whereby the air was warmed, moistened and purified before entering the lungs.

The process of purification was accomplished by means of the fine hairs; and the use of one's handkerchief after a day in London showed the impurities that were arrested by them. The lecturer spoke in scathing terms of the "comforter" as a factor in nose and throat disease, and described it as "pernicious and abominable."

He threw on the screen a picture of what he described as a "mouth breather," to illustrate the bad effects of adenoids, and pointed out the child's dull expression, the sucked-in ribs and miserably developed chest. Bad memory, depression, night terrors with sense of suffocation, were some of the evil consequences of this defect.

He told a story of a small patient whom he had asked if he suffered with bad dreams. "Yes," he said; "Burglars comes and stufficates me."

Mr. Yearsley dealt with the various causes of deafness in children, and showed how often they were preventible if only they were recognised in time.

The most intractable form, he said, was that resulting from mumps, which, unless recognised and treated in the first fortnight, was practically hopeless.

The Midwives (Scotland) Bill passed its second reading in the House of Lords on December 8th. It is expected that it will become law before Christmas.

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