

Dr. Williams sums up the causes of subinvolution as follows : General debility ; multiparity at advanced ages ; post-partum hemorrhage ; retention of portions of placenta and membranes ; lacerations of the perineum, and pelvic inflammations. Its results are hemorrhage, dysmenorrhœa, and prolapsus. The prevention consists in the removal, to as great an extent as possible, of the causes which lead to it. Some of these are irremovable ; but post-partum hemorrhage, laceration of the perineum, pelvic inflammation, retention of portions of placenta and membrane, can in a great degree be prevented. Wounds of the perineum must be immediately and completely closed. There is no doubt that the cases where this is done make better recoveries than those in which it is neglected. Goodell of Philadelphia claims that too long rest in bed favours subinvolution. His plan is getting the patients out of bed daily for a short time during the first four days ; after that they get up and dress. The chief advantage claimed for this method is that drainage of the uterus and vagina is secured. Dr. Williams has not practised this latter, but he claims equally good results with Dr. Goodell by an opposite course. Vaginal injections are most valuable in favouring involution. They must be commenced immediately after delivery, be hot, abundant, and contain a disinfectant—three or four pints at a temperature of 110 to 115°F. Dr. Williams concluded his paper by saying : “The prevention of subinvolution means three things—an empty uterus, a well-contracted uterus, and the absence of fever ; and I know of no better means of securing the second and third objects than the use of hot disinfecting vaginal injections and closing wounds of the perineum.”

In the discussion which followed, Dr. Playfair said that he believed unhealed lacerations of the cervix oftener caused subinvolution than those of the perineum. Dr. Edis of London thought that general debility during pregnancy ought to be removed, as it favoured subinvolution after delivery. Quinine and iron, and the regulation of the nutrition and secretory functions were important. This would lessen the frequency of abortions and protracted delivery. The use of the forceps when neces-