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PUERPERAL INSANITY*

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THE subject which the committee handed me, a few weeks ago, as a theme for a short paper, was "Puerperal Insanity." Though possibly not as interesting, from a scientific point of view, as some other forms of mental disease, from the standpoint of frequency and curability there is, perhaps, no other form of mental disease of greater general interest or practical importance.

Puerperal insanity differs in no essential respect from other forms of mental disease—that is to say, it is not itself a distinctive form, but it embraces other forms, and these several forms are classified according to the leading characteristics of the disease; the event which determines the attack provides the name of the disease, puerperal insanity, and its chief subdivisions are puerperal mania, puerperal melancholia, and puerperal delusional insanity.

*Read at the Meeting of the Ontario Medical Association, Toronto, June, 1895.