

Obstetrics

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On Death and Disability Resulting from Childbirth. By H. M. LITTLE, B.A., M.D., Montreal. *Journal of Can. Med. Association.*

The author has availed himself of the clinical material of the Montreal Maternity and also the Gynecological Department (Outdoor) of the Montreal General Hospital.

In the new Montreal Maternity from 1905 to 1909 there were treated some 2,634 patients, and of these 35 died—*i.e.*, 1.33 per cent. mortality. The causes of death were as follows:

Eclampsia	8
Nephritis and Anasarca	3
Vomiting	3
Toxemia	14
Infection	13
Hemorrhage	1
Placenta Praevia	2
Cardiac Diseases	4
Rupture of Uterus	1
Pyelitis	1
Bronchitis	1
<i>i.e.</i> , Deaths from toxemias	40 per cent.
Deaths from infections	37 per cent.
Deaths from other causes	23 per cent.

As regards the three deaths from bronchitis, pyelitis and rupture of the uterus, the patients were past recall before coming under the hospital's care. Of course a ruptured uterus should never occur in these days.

Of the two cases of placenta praevia, one died of thrombosis on the tenth day of an apparently normal puerperium, and the other from concealed hemorrhage. Now, thrombosis always means infection—and it is notorious that all placenta praevias suffer from infection unless the very greatest care be exercised. Hence my advice is to be most rigid in asepsis here.

There is hardly any excuse for a death from hemorrhage.