tion. During protracted labor certain secretions are poured into the uterus and vagina which offer excellent culture media for the development of bacteria normally present in the parturient canal, or introduced by examinations. After the membranes are projected through the os externum, or the head has moulded into the os, they are exposed to the contamination of the vagina; in removing the secundines and the child through the uterine incision they may soil the peritoneum or wound. The prolonged labor frequently is the determining factor in the death of the child, or so jeopardizes its life that its prospects are curtailed. Holmes deprecates the Cesarean section performed with inadequate assistance, filthy surroundings and makeshift facilities. An emergency operation should not be done unless there be very pressing indications.

Cesarean Section.—J. B. De Lee, Chicago (*American Journal of Obstetrics,* New York, June) is of the opinion that the results obtained in ten cases of Cesarean section encourage one to extend the field of this operation. Of these ten cases, nine mothers recovered and nine babies lived. One child died in sixteen hours under symptoms of acute sepsis, though the mother recovered. The one patient who died had been in labor three days, had been examined under ether three times, and had a solid tumor of the ovary blocking the pelvis completely. The technic of the operation varied but little in each case. The transverse fundal incision was used only twice. The uterus was amputated three times, once for obstruction to the lochial flow, and twice because of a severe vaginitis. One ovary was left in each of these cases to preserve the ovarian function as long as possible. The uterus was delivered through the incision in all the cases, but the abdomen was closed in three layers and no hernia has developed in any of the cases.

Use and Abuse of Uterine Curette.—The article by R. P. McReynolds, Philadelphia (*American Jour. of Obstetrics,* New York, June) is based on the study of 170 cases of curettement. He uses the sharp curette almost exclusively, but occasionally finds use for a large, dull curette. Endometritis hyperplastica chronica or polyposa, subinvolution of the uterus, and puerperal conditions of the endometrium caused by the retention of some of the products of conception, yield promptly, as a rule, through a thorough and careful curettement, unless there is already present disease of the adnexa or a general septic infection. McReynolds scarcely ever finds it necessary to leave a packing of gauze in the uterine cavity, and when he does so he invariably removes it within twelve hours. In malignant growths not per-