

He compares eighty cases treated thus with seventy-nine cases treated by general means and antiseptic intra-uterine douches. He reports a mortality of 20% of those actively treated as against 46% of those passively treated. In referring to the leucocytal zone, he makes the statement that in such severe cases as these such a barrier is not formed.

Before passing on, let us weigh carefully, or examine carefully some of Dr. Gorden's statements. In the first place, he claims to scrape away the entire endometrium. Post-mortem examinations in France and Germany of the curetted puerperal uterus have demonstrated that this is impossible, and this is the view held by most reliable obstetricians to-day. Next, the writer claims to have a mortality of 20% in those treated with the curette, as against 46% in those treated in the passive way. Such an appalling death rate is difficult to explain.

Ricard, of Paris, has recently estimated that the entire death-rate of severe puerperal infection is not more than 10%, drawing his conclusions from records of 2,640 cases.

Thirdly, the writer makes the statement that, in these severe cases, no leucocytic defence is put up. This opinion I don't think Dr. Gorden will find endorsed by many. I think it is generally conceded that, in all cases the wall of defence is put up, but the more virulent bacilli penetrate it. This is especially true of the streptococcus. Bumm has found that the streptococcus penetrates the uterine wall at the rate of 2 cm. in six hours.

These are the very cases that even some of the most ardent advocates of the curette look upon as unsuitable for this method of treatment.

I do not wish to single out Dr. Knyvett Gorden in connection with the operative treatment of acute puerperal sepsis, as there have been many able papers presented on this subject during the past five years; yet it seems to me, if we appeal to our own unbiased judgment in the treatment of these cases, after reading these papers, one is impressed with the application of the statement made by the late Dr. Fothergill, when called in consultation by one of his pupils. While they were waiting in the reception-room, the young physician gave a very complete summary to the old doctor of the wonderful results he had had from the use of the various new remedies, to which he replied in a very fatherly way. "My young man, by the time you have been in practice as many years as I have, you will be surprised at