

Selected Articles.

GENERAL PUERPERAL SEPTICEMIA TREATED BY INTRA-ABDOMINAL IRRIGATION WITH NORMAL SALINE SOLUTION; RECOVERY.*

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A number of cases have been reported in which the abdominal cavity has been subjected to irrigation for puerperal sepsis, with indifferent results; but the accompanying report is unique, so far as I am able to determine, on account of the length of time the irrigation was practiced, the effect of the irrigation on the kidneys and peritoneum, and the ultimate recovery of the patient without the ordinary sequels of septic peritonitis.

The patient was a French woman, aged 24, unmarried, secretary to a woman of considerable wealth. She became pregnant during the latter part of August, 1902. During October and November she made frequent attempts to produce abortion by means of various drugs, hot water vaginal douches and the like, but unsuccessfully. Early in December a meddlesome woman friend initiated her into the mysteries of instrumental procedure, and during the evening of December 9th she inserted an ordinary wooden penholder into the cavity of the womb and allowed it to remain there until the following morning. The membranes were not ruptured by this maneuver, but it was followed by the appearance of considerable blood, undoubtedly from a wound of the endometrium.

Abortion occurred during the afternoon of the 10th. The girl remained in bed until the next morning, when she arose, dressed and resumed her usual duties about the house. I was summoned to see her at midnight, December 16th. She had then been confined to bed two days. I found her temperature to be 104.4 F., her pulse rate 120, and her respiration rapid and shallow. She was somewhat delirious. Her abdomen was greatly distended, and was sensitive to the touch. The uterus was enlarged and soft, and the lochial discharge was scanty in amount and very offensive. From the housekeeper I learned that she had had several protracted chills, had vomited a num-

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