

matory mass or by incision and drainage must have observed that the febrile period of the disease lasted about the usual time: that is, until immunity developed. Take a case of puerperal ovarian abscess, remove the ovary with the usual aseptic precautions without spilling the pus; and the febrile period of the disease will continue about the usual time, that is, until immunity develops. This is somewhat a personal opinion, but is, I believe, consistent with clinical experience. It is impossible to prove, as there is such a large amount of variation in the virulence of the infection and the physiologic resistance in the different cases. This means that the local infection is of very little importance when compared with the general infection.

#### THE INFECTED UTERUS.

The changes in the uterus may vary from being so few as to be scarcely discernible to the naked eye to having a profuse suppurative surface with more or less sloughing tissue with decomposed thrombi and small abscesses in the muscular wall. It is interesting to speculate how the latter condition affects the disease. It would seem to increase the severity of the disease and yet the acuteness of the illness has little or no relation to the amount of pathology in the uterus. The very acute, usually streptococcus, cases often have very little localized pathology. The cases with extensive uterine pathology are seldom the extremely acute cases. You tell me it is a difference in the variety of the infection. The cases with extensive pathology in the uterus are, however, at times streptococcus in part at least. The above would suggest the possibility that the inflammatory exudate, the mixed infection or the saprophytes may help destroy streptococci or staphylococci. The above emphasizes again the small relative importance of the local infection.

The presence of pus in these cases has not the same effect as the presence of pus in some of the other localities of the body in cases of infection. In the pelvis the localized leucocytosis and cell proliferation is much more active than in most