

that puerperal sepsis will be found to depend largely on previous toxemia of pregnancy. In all alleged cases of toxemia of pregnancy, when hepatitis or nephritis is absent, and perhaps even when present, the systemic blood, placenta, etc., should be tested for evidences of *gac* bacillus infection.

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#### INSTITUTIONAL MORTALITY OF THE NEW BORN.

L. Emmett Holt and E. M. Babbitt, New York (*Journal A. M. A.*, Jan. 23, 1915), have studied the infant mortality during the early weeks of life. According to Holt's statistics, out of one hundred infant deaths occurring during the first year, 33 occur in the first month, 28 in the first two weeks, and 22 in the first week, and 13 on the first day. While this number of cases is small, they are of value on account of accurate statistics. The questions they hope to answer were how the general figures of the city compared with these and what is the average or normal mortality in 10,000 infants. How much of this mortality of the first two weeks can be prevented by the proper use of obstetrics and how much is due to malformations and avoidable accidents of birth? Ten thousand consecutive confinements in the Sloane Hospital for Women were analyzed. They were divided as follows: Abortions before the twenty-seventh week, 253; stillbirths, 429; born alive, 9,318. These 9,318 cases are analyzed with care and detail, and the causes of death during the first two weeks summed up. In analyzing stillbirths, the period of gestation was estimated by the length of the fœtus. The paper is summarized as follows: "The deaths in the hospital during the first fourteen days were 3 per cent. of the living births. For half this number, prematurity was responsible. Forty-eight per cent. of the total deaths, and 66 per cent. of those due to prematurity occurred on the first day. Congenital weakness and atelectasis, together made up 58 per cent. of the total deaths. The mortality from conditions intimately connected with delivery—accidents of labor, hemorrhages, sepsis and asphyxia—together made up but 20 per cent. of the deaths of the first fourteen days. Malformations and congenital diseases other than syphilis caused 4 per cent., and syphilis 4 per cent. The only important disease developing after birth was pneumonia. Stillbirths must be reckoned as one of the large problems in infant mortality; they are one and a half times as many as the deaths from all causes during the first two weeks. Except for the larger rôle played by syphilis, the causes of stillbirths in no way differ from those which produce death during the first days of life. When we come to consider to what degree preventive measures might influence the mortality of the first two weeks