

6. Thorough cleanliness and the use of the antiseptic dressings throughout the whole puerperal period. Routine douching throughout the puerperium is unnecessary and inadvisable if proper care has been taken during and immediately after labor. Corrosive sublimate seems to be the most efficient agent for disinfecting the hands and douching the vagina. Dr. Boxall has recently made a valuable communication to the London Obstetrical Society giving the results of seven years' practice in the General Lying-in Hospital, London. He finds a great improvement in results since the introduction of antiseptics, but remarked that febrile cases increased whenever sublimate was given up for carbolic acid, Condy, creolin, or salufer, and decreased again when the routine use of sublimate was re-established. He found also that when weak solutions of sublimate were in use fever increased, but declined once more when they returned to the 1×1000 for external and 1×2000 for internal application.

If a man carries out antiseptic measures in his midwifery practice as a routine, he need seldom feel alarm when febrile symptoms appear during the puerperium, for he will generally discover the cause to be other than septic wound infection. But if he does not adopt such measures, he will always be in a state of uncertainty and doubt when fever appears. Let me urge upon the Association the advisability of more careful observation of their cases after confinement. The thermometer may be the first and at times the only external evidence of inflammatory mischief internally. A slight parametritis which would disappear after a few days longer rest in bed, may be lighted into fresh activity by getting up too soon; the thermometer would probably call attention to the existence of such a parametritis. In a word, we should treat our obstetric cases in a more scientific manner and upon surgical principles. The wounds are hidden and the ill-effects of slovenliness and inattention may not be for the moment as apparent, but they are none the less real. Gynæcologists tell us a sad tale of the miseries and sufferings of women from neglected inflammatory troubles traceable to confinement, miseries and sufferings which are quite preventable. Such a