

CASE OF SEPTICÆMIA FOLLOWING INDUCED ABORTION.*

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March 16th.—*M. A.*, *æt.* 24.—Single, usually enjoys good health. As a rule catamenia regular, ceased two months ago. When the menses did not appear at the usual time she became alarmed, and, suspecting pregnancy, procured some powders from a physician to bring them on. These not producing the desired effect, she says she obtained a gum elastic catheter from a female friend, and passed it into vagina and probably uterus. This was repeated once or twice till it caused considerable pain, and was followed by a flow of blood, which began about two weeks ago and has continued freely ever since, being at times accompanied with large clots. Has been growing weak from loss of blood, and for a day or two has felt quite ill. This led her friends to send for me, even though she objected. During the six hours preceding my visit she had two slight chills. On examination, I found the vagina filled with clots and free blood, the whole smelling badly. Pulse 108, temperature 102°F. I at once gave a whiff or two of chloroform, and, after clearing out vagina, applied equal parts of carbolic acid and glycerine to the interior of uterus through the patulous os several times. Then I scraped out the produce of pregnancy with curette and fingers; afterwards, further applications of carbolic acid and glycerine were made. A vaginal douche of one in a hundred of carbolic acid and hot water ordered to be given every six hours; also, 3 grs. of quinine to be taken every four hours.

March 25.—Since last report, nine days ago, patient has had half a dozen chills or more, some of them lasting only a few minutes, others a half hour, always followed by profuse sweating. They occurred at irregular intervals, sometimes twice within twenty-four hours, and at others they were absent for forty-eight hours. She sweats a good deal also every night during sleep, necessitating a change of clothing. Complains of no pain. Intra-uterine douches of a mixture of one in a hundred of Izal were given for a few days while the discharge was offensive, but now the carbolic vaginal douches are alone used, the discharge having become much less in quantity and very slightly foetid. The pulse has ranged from 100 to 120, and the temperature from 101° to 103°. The latter varies from day to day. She takes fluid nourishment well, getting 2 or 3 quarts of milk per day, with one or two raw eggs and 4 to 6 ounces of whiskey. Bowels have been moved every two or three days with enemata.

April 10.—Very little or no discharge for last two weeks. Douches have, therefore, been omitted for several days. The chills have been growing less frequent and less severe of late. The sweats have also been less profuse. The pulse runs from 120 to 140; the temperature from 100° to 104°. The bowels became loose a week ago, and from six to twelve movements have occurred every twenty-four hours since then. They are kept somewhat in check by an occasional enema of laudanum, which seems to answer that purpose fairly well. Nine grains of quinine are taken per day; more than that causes deafness. Never complains of pain. Feels a little headache at times, and a little uncomfortable just before bowels move. No tenderness nor swelling about uterus. Is able to sit up a little every day while bed is made, and seems to enjoy it. Takes nourishment and stimulants as before.

*Read before the Toronto Medical Society.