

murmur. In eighteen there was a murmur present at some time during the course of the disease, which disappeared, and the patients were discharged with clear heart sounds. Pericarditis occurred in 5.9 per cent.

In treating these cases the patients are put on a milk diet and kept absolutely at rest in bed. Large quantities of alkaline water are administered. They wear flannels and are between blankets. Sodium salicylate in doses of 15 grains is administered every two or four hours for one or two days, or until the pain is relieved; then oil of wintergreen in doses of 15 drops four times a day is usually substituted. With this the potassium salts are given in doses sufficiently large to render the urine alkaline. The joints are kept in cloth saturated with lead and opium lotion, or the oil of wintergreen is applied. The latter has been found especially helpful. Fixation of the joint is frequently employed. Pain, one of the most frequent complications, is relieved by one of the coal-tar products or by morphine.

Three patients died, a mortality of 1.1 per cent. All the fatal cases had carditis

PUERPERAL INSANITY.

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This paper is based upon a personal experience of 259 cases of puerperal insanity, divided into 120 cases commencing during the actual puerperal period, 83 during lactation, and 56 during pregnancy. Insanity occurs once in every 700 confinements. It is of a characteristic form after confinement, amounting to an almost nosological entity; but this is not the case during pregnancy or during lactation, there being no definite type of insanity occurring in connection with these two stages. The divisions are, however, more convenient than typical. The following propositions may be advanced:—1. The insanity of pregnancy is more common in first confinements among single women, the disappointment, shame, and disgrace of illegitimacy being an important factor in the mental breakdown. 2. During the pregnancy the mental condition is more often acute melancholia than acute mania, and suicidal symptoms, which occur in 41 per cent., have to be carefully guarded against. 3. The insanity of pregnancy is