

which the child was born, whether living, still, or dead,—whether the case is a first, second or third, &c. gestation, and lastly the date of her discharge from the Hospital, and after a categorical reply to all these questions, any peculiarities in the labour are finally detailed under an appropriate heading. All these particulars are entered by the student in attendance on the case, immediately after the termination of the accouchement, so that in time a truly valuable amount of statistical information will be obtainable. The Hospital has now been in operation sixteen years, and it is the results which during that time have accumulated, which furnish the groundwork of this paper.*

It appears that during this period of time 1968 women have been admitted as patients, being an annual average of about 123. Of these five were cases of Abortion, which require to be deducted from our calculations. It is necessary to remark that the total number given includes a list of 747 cases of which a very minute portion only of their details has been preserved, viz.: their admission and confinement. I will only use these in a general way. Every endeavour has been made to discover where these records are, but without avail. It is exceedingly to be regretted that any portion of them whatever has been lost.

The sufficiently large number of 1216, however, yet remain whose details have been preserved in their comparative entirety. It must be further observed, that it is sometimes impossible to fill up answers to all the questions; and I may exemplify this remark by the well known difficulty in determining the number of days intervening between the cessation of the catamenia and the commencement of labour, but in all cases in which the results have been obtained from numbers less than the total, the precise number will be stated.

I propose to enumerate at first general details; and I will reserve to the conclusion of the paper, the narrative of such peculiarities in the labours as have been specially noticed in the records.

Of the 1960 women admitted, besides deducting the five cases of abortion already noticed, we have further to add to this latter number, 14, who either left the Hospital before delivery or were expelled for bad conduct. These deductions reduce the total number to 1949.

Of the 1949 patients 17 have died, the causes of the deaths having been the following:—five from puerperal fever; six from peritonitic and metritic affections; one from epilepsy complicating the labour, and ending in cerebral congestion; and five from puerperal convulsions. This proportion yields a ratio of mortality in the cases, of 1 to 114.6 labours, thus exhibiting a highly favourable ratio.

Of this number there are only 1208 entries in the register, which can be rendered tributary to the purposes of this paper, the record containing nothing

* In the *British American Journal* of February, 1847, the late Dr. McCulloch contributed an interesting paper on the statistics of the Hospital based upon 354 cases, which had up to that period of time been admitted. These cases which furnished the groundwork of his deductions are among the 747, whose details are now all lost except the record of their admission and confinement. I will therefore avail myself of his labours whenever I find them suiting my purpose.

More lately, Dr. Fenwick, with my permission, has given, in the *Medical Chronicle* for September, 1857, the particulars of 1009 accouchements.