

The majority of cases of death following the decomposition of foetus or placenta in utero are caused by the use of the curette, and I hold that septicemia may be avoided if a more rational procedure be resorted to.

The condition of the uterus containing septic matter is one of great congestion, the thickened walls being coated internally and over the os with a thick, brown, tenacious mucus.

The congestion is active, and therefore the more dangerous in the event of the admission of septic matter into the circulation.

If the curette is used, denuding the walls of their protective covering, an immediate vaccination takes place with a septic virus, septicemia following in an incredibly short space of time (chemical metamorphosis is marvellously rapid in the circulatory system), and death quickly ensues.

If, without using the curette, we can remove the septic matter from the uterus without disturbing the mucus covering, and enable the uterus of itself to expel the coating, we shall have taken a long step forward in the treatment of this class of uterine cases.

The uterus by reason of its congestion may be made to perform a self-cleansing act by exciting the exudation of the serum of the blood into its cavity, thereby washing itself out, and expelling all septic matter instead of absorbing it.

This process of exosmosis is induced by a properly combined alkaline solution at a temperature above  $100^{\circ}$  and a strict avoidance of bi-chloride, carbolic acid, formaldehyde, or any antiseptic of an acid reaction or astringent nature, which would coagulate the fibrine and albumen of the blood.

My method of procedure is as follows:

First, the gentle removal of whatever fragments are lying in the uterine cavity, by means of forceps, care being taken not to tear from the walls any adherent piece.