

is here where it is most absolutely necessary. I cannot impress that fact too often upon you. Do not forget it. You will understand you cannot attain in your work ideal asepticism, but you can get as near to it as you possibly can. All the links in your chain of asepticism must be complete. Break one, and there is no asepticism. If you receive instructions to douche a vagina with a sublimate solution, and you use a dirty nozzle of a syringe, your aseptic nursing is a farce and you open the door for trouble. To make you understand this better, I had better give you an illustration from my own work. Not long ago, I had to attend to a confinement, and on entering the house, met the nurse, who told me that everything was all right, and that labor was going on well, that she had made an examination and that she had given a preliminary douche.

I was rather astonished at all this information, took a quick glance at the hands of the nurse, and saw her finger nails were not clean. Asked her if she had boiled the nozzle of the syringe, and she said yes, but the manner in which the answer was given showed me pretty clearly that the truth was concealed. After making my hands and the parts of the patient aseptic, I made an examination, and found what the nurse considered was all right and everything going on well was a breech-presentation, with the membranes already ruptured, and this in a primipara. I felt that everything was not all right and that things were not going well. I need not tell you I had septic trouble in this case, and septic pneumonia; and if it had not been for the good care given by another nurse, I would not have saved my case. You will now understand what I mean by attention to the details of the aseptic methods. This nurse not only did not understand aseptic methods, and the object to be obtained by them, but she had no right to make an examination, or to use a preliminary douche unless requested by the medical attendant. You have to remember the upper portion of the vaginal tube in a woman of ordinary good health is already aseptic, and that examination by a nurse is wholly uncalled for, and is productive of mischief.

A woman immediately after delivery is particularly susceptible to the absorption of micro-organisms. It is on this account medical schools will not allow students who are attending dissecting classes to attend any cases in the Maternity Hospital, and that medical men take the utmost precaution if they have any erysipelas or scarlatina in their practice. Some will not undertake this responsibility. This fact, of being absolutely clean in every detail