

epidemic form in the years 1871 and 1872. The first outbreak of this dangerous complaint of parturient women occurred in the month of February, 1871, and of *five* patients seized *three* died. The disease had prevailed in the city during the winter of 1870-71, and had proved fatal in numerous instances, and apprehensions were entertained that it would eventually make its appearance in the hospital. The first case occurred in a poor, enfeebled, and, according to her own statement, half-starved woman, who was admitted in a state of labour from the suburbs of the city. Three hours after her admission she was delivered, and five hours subsequently the disease made its appearance, being ushered in by the most violent symptoms. Within two days four other patients were attacked; two of whom had been delivered before and two subsequently to her admission. To prevent the further spread of the disease, all the patients not yet confined were dismissed, and the Institution closed for the period of a month. It was then thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, and no other case occurred until the month of April, 1872. As in the previous year, puerperal fever was rife in the city for many months before it broke out in the hospital; so that in the two instances, in which it has during these eight years appeared in an epidemic form in this Institution, it has been in both imported from without; in neither did it *originate* in the hospital. In the latter epidemic there were *eight* women attacked, of whom *four* died. The limited amount of disposable space in the present building, rendering it altogether impossible to isolate the sick from those recently confined, it was again closed to patients for a period of six weeks. Since its re-opening in June, 1872, there has been no case of puerperal fever. The *eighth* death occurred in a woman who, when admitted, was in an advanced stage of Bright's disease. She was generally anasarcaous, the labia being enormously swollen. The urine was loaded with albumen, and contained numerous granular casts. She was safely delivered of twins, both living; but nearly lost her life from post-partum hæmorrhage. She died on the fourth day after labour with symptoms of uræmic coma.

Of 998 children born, 959 presented the vertex; 11, the