

class there were thirty-three deaths, or a mortality of 32.69 per cent.; while of the second class forty died, thus giving a mortality of 15.85 per cent. All told there were seventy-three deaths out of the 352 cases treated—a mortality of 20.74 per cent. After a very careful and searching examination of the whole of the literature on the subject the committee has come to the conclusion that “The only positive fact which has thus far been satisfactorily demonstrated is the possibility of markedly increasing the virulence of streptococci by appropriate methods.”

Turning to the personal individual experience of the committee in the treatment of this disease we find that Dr. Williams has treated twenty-three such cases, Dr. Pryor fourteen, and Dr. Fry eight cases—Dr. Fry being the only one who employed the serum. In the past three years Dr. Williams, out of a total of ninety-one cases of puerperal fever, has only been able to discover the streptococcus in twenty-three cases, of which sixteen were those of pure culture. The treatment followed in these cases after a digital examination, and the demonstration of the bacteria in the uterine lochia, obtained through Doderlein's tube, was a single douche of sterile salt solution, the patient being then left alone as much as possible. If exhaustion supervened she was kept on the verge of strychnia poisoning and drunkenness with large doses of strychnine and alcohol. Out of these twenty-three cases one died. Dr. Pryor reported his experience with fourteen cases in which the germ was demonstrated in pure culture; one died. The uterine cavity was thoroughly cleansed and sterilized. Then a broad incision was made into the pouch of Douglas, any effusion present liberated, adhesions separated, and iodoform gauze packed firmly in so as to isolate the uterine body. The interior of the organ was similarly treated. Dr. Fry believes that the serum proved beneficial upon several of his cases; one case resulted fatally. Summing up: out of the forty-three cases there were three deaths, or 7 per cent. These results, when compared with the ordinary mortality, and with the 101 cases (*vide ante*) with a mortality of 33 per cent., appear in a most favorable light. The committee condemns hysterectomy for acute puerperal infection, also curettage, and finds that Marmoreck's claim for the serum is unsubstantiated. They advise as follows:

“In puerperal infections a portion of the uterine lochia should be removed by Doderlein's tube for bacteriological examination, and an intrauterine douche of four to five litres of sterile salt solution given just afterward. If the infection be due to streptococci, the uterus should not be touched again, and the patient be given very large doses of strychnine and alcohol if necessary. If the infection be due to other organisms repeated douchings and even curettage may be advisable. If the infection extends towards the