

will have to dismiss the "inflammation" theory altogether, and accept "insufficiency of the uterine mucosa" as the true etiological factor in placental adhesion. On such a supposition it becomes easy to understand how adhesion is apt to recur in subsequent pregnancies, for insufficiency of the uterine mucosa remains constant. As a matter of fact, Hense found in 168 cases of manual separation of the placenta, that a repetition of the complication occurred in 43.55 per cent.

It is also worthy of note in these cases, that puerperal complications are usually absent. If we admit the non-inflammatory nature of the adhesions, it is evident that if the patient does not die of hæmorrhage, and if the uterus is thoroughly curetted and cleaned out, the patient will be almost sure to recover without further complication, for when once the placenta is removed, the uterus is left in the normal post-partum condition.

The Resistance to Infection and Intoxication in Pregnancy and the Puerperium.

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For the purpose of determining experimentally whether animals in the pregnant and puerperal state are infected more easily and more severely than when not pregnant, Professor Bossi, of Genoa, experimented upon thirty rabbits and twenty-nine guinea pigs. Inoculations were made with pure cultures of *B. Coli*, *proteus mirabilis*, *B. diphtheriæ*, *B. tuberculosis*, *pyocyaneus*, *pneumococcus*, *streptococcus pyogenes*, *staphylococcus pyogenes*, *staphylococcus pyogenes aureus*, and with mixed cultures of *streptococcus* and *staphylococcus*, and of *B. diphtheriæ* and *streptococcus*. The mixed cultures caused a larger number of acute diseases in both pregnant and non-pregnant animals. With pure as well as mixed cultures, the mortality was greater in the pregnant than in the non-pregnant; the farther advanced the pregnancy, the more pronounced was the difference. The temperature was on the average 1.5° C. higher in the pregnant animals, and abortion was of very frequent occurrence. In a proportionately large number of cases, bacteria were found in the placenta and in the blood of the fœtus. Diphtheria was the only exception, the pregnant animals showing greater resistance to the bacillus and its toxine than the non-pregnant. For tuberculin the result was uncertain. In the action of experimental infection, no special difference was noticed between puerperal and non-puerperal animals. The passage of micro-organisms into the milk seems to be established. These experiments of Bossi have an