

careful washing with strong carbolic soap and the examining fingers being then anointed with carbolized oil. The patient was carefully syringed twice daily with a solution of the permanganate of potash of the strength of two teaspoonsful of Condyl's fluid to a pint of water ; and if there were elevation of temperature, or if the lochia became offensive, the vagina was syringed every fourth hour.

Some years ago it was deemed advisable, with the view of giving the student of medicine a more thorough training in practical midwifery, to appoint an "instructor in midwifery" to the hospital, whose duty it would be to attend each case of labor, demonstrate the progress of parturition, and deliver clinical remarks to the attendant students. The first appointment to this position was made in the year 1878, just at the commencement of that period of four years in which six deaths from sepsis occurred, and during which the death-rate of the hospital was raised from .73 to 2.14 per cent. The more frequent manipulations and greater interference with the patient which such instruction demanded were, in my opinion, the causes of this increased mortality. Indeed, a more striking illustration of the danger to be apprehended in making the parturient woman too thoroughly the subject of practical instruction could not possibly be adduced than that which the statistics of the hospital during these four years has afforded.

The proportion of still-births to living children, as given in the above table, is five per cent. ; but this does not represent exactly the proportion of mature children who were living at the commencement of labor, but who, from various causes, lost their lives during the act of parturition. If from the total number recorded (87) there be deducted 18, some of whom were born prematurely between the 140th and 190th day of gestation, and others with marks of intra-uterine maceration, the proportion would be only four per cent.

During the sixteen years, the cases (41 in number) in which operative interference was demanded recovered ; and there was not a death from hemorrhage, puerperal eclampsia, nor puerperal mania, although the last two occurred in as many as fourteen cases, eclampsia in eleven, and mania in three.