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THE OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF PUERPERAL FEVER, WITH REPORT OF A CASE.

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Having now had considerable experience in the treatment of puerperal fever by measures medical and surgical, varying all the way from quinine and saline purgatives to washing out the uterus, curetting, packing, draining, opening abscesses of the cellular tissue and removal of purulent tubes and ovaries from the pelvic peritoneal cavity, and even to removal of the septic uterus, I feel more in favor than ever of resorting to measures sufficiently vigorous to suit the case, rather than to return to the almost helpless and hopeless methods formerly practised. Since my inaugural thesis prepared for the American Gynæcological Society, and appearing in its Transactions for 1892, on Puerperal Septicæmia, I have had a few cases in my own practice, and quite a large number which have been referred to me by the kindness of my colleagues. In the majority of these cases it must be said only the milder surgical measures had to be resorted to, for if nothing abnormal could be felt in the pelvis, and the temperature did not come down quickly under saline purgatives and quinine, the uterus was promptly washed out with permanganate or perchloride solution, and drained, *not packed*, with a wick of iodoform cotton, and generally with the result that within twenty-four or forty-eight hours the temperature and pulse had returned to the normal and a load of anxiety had been lifted from the attending physician's mind. As several such instances occurred among the wives of physicians who appeared to be in great danger, the latter became strong advocates of this method of treating high temperature after confinement.