

we can scarcely refuse to accept it. The good effects of the Fowler position in connection therewith are generally recognized. Large tubes are introduced into the lower part of the abdomen and drainage through these is assisted by the sitting position of the patient.

The methods employed are not yet perfect, however, and the results of drainage in some cases are sadly disappointing. Such being the case, is it not reasonable to suppose that irrigation before drainage might sometimes be beneficial? Take for instance perforation of the stomach or bowel, with sudden out-pour of septic matter sometimes in large amounts. Let us ask those who favor drainage alone why they think that any attempt to wash out some of this deleterious matter is always harmful? The answer is that some surgeons in Toronto and other places, have got better results from drainage alone. Supposing that to be true, is it not well to consider it possible that careful irrigation before drainage may accomplish good in some cases. We need not now consider the objections raised to drainage in septic peritonitis because of discomforts to the patients, prolonged recovery, dangers from new wounds, etc., although we may acknowledge that such objections are legitimate.

The importance of drainage has always been appreciated by the obstetrician. Drainage from the uterus after labor has always been more or less encouraged; but the advantages of the recumbent posture have been overestimated; and the drainage has often been faulty where free discharges from the uterus and vagina were urgently needed. For several years the tendency has been to lose our high respect for the flat on the back position, and give our patients greater freedom as to their movements in bed.

*Fowler's Position.*—The object of placing a patient suffering from septic peritonitis in the semi-sitting position is to cause the exudates to gravitate from the dangerous upper zone to the safer lower zone in the pelvic region. It is somewhat surprising to find a gynaecologist, who has had large experience in the treatment of pus collections in the pelvis, make the statement that all zones are equally bad. Surely it has been demonstrated