

most malignant type, and almost always fatal." (Dr. Aitken's Practice of Medicine, Vol. I., p. 329.) In scarlatina, "pregnancy also adds to the danger, as the woman frequently miscarries. The prognosis is also extremely grave when it attacks women immediately after parturition." (Wilson on Diseases of the Skin, p. 421.) Several facts in connection with this case render it of interest, more especially in a pathological point of view. We observe how the admission of the zymotic scarlatinal poison into the system was followed by the symptoms, viz., the shivering pain over the uterine region, rapidity of pulse, not *full* and *strong*, but *weak* and *compressible*. It is now admitted "that these symptoms frequently indicate the passage of poisonous material into the blood." (Dr. Hewett on the Diet of Child-bed, Canada Medical Journal, No. 5, p. 239.) As proof of this opinion we could not seek a better illustration. These symptoms were not the result of inflammatory action, but rather the outward manifestation of the accumulation within the system of the particular poisonous material, which, when thoroughly developed, particularized the scarlatinal type of fever. These various indications pointed out a course of treatment not anti-inflammatory, but stimulating and supporting. The human system can be subjected to no greater changes than those taking place during the period of pregnancy; the growth of the uterus and its appendages during gestation, and their relapse to their pristine condition after it, are changes so gradual on the one hand and sudden on the other, that constant observation is requisite in order to guard against diseases to which the system, at this particular time, is so liable. Scarlet fever being essentially a blood disease, "the effect of the poison, as justly observed by Dr. Golding Bird (Grey's Hospital Reports, April, 1854, p. 136), is a determination of blood towards the cutaneous and mucous surfaces, shown by the characteristic rash on the one, and the erythematic state of the other. If the eruption be fully developed, the effects of the poison become exhausted. But if the effects of the scarlatinal poison be interfered with, by any irregularity, the poison not being carefully eliminated, some of the recognized of its effects result."

The existence of an imperfectly developed exanthem over the abdominal surface, coincident with the appearance of maniacal symptoms led me to suppose that the metritic irritation resulting from this imperfectly eliminated poison excited the *cerebrum* in a *reflex form*. Owing to the unmanageableness of the patient great difficulty was experienced in treatment, in consequence of which strong croton oil liniment was applied copiously over the abdominal walls as a *dernier ressort*. After eighteen hours considerable pustulation and surrounding redness was produced over the entire region. No sooner had this change taken place than the