

abortion or premature labor in a smaller proportion of cases than any of the other infectious diseases.

Labor.—Influenza during labor is a serious complication, although, perhaps, not so much so as many think. The chief dangers are:

1. Weakening of the expulsive powers of the uterine and abdominal walls.
2. Hæmorrhage during the third stage.
3. Post-partum hæmorrhage.

Ballantyne, of Edinburgh, refers to these dangers, but intimates that serious hæmorrhages are not common. He, in fact, expresses an opinion that in the majority of cases uncomplicated influenza simply delays labor and necessitates a frequent use of the forceps. While I agree with him I think that generally the loss of blood is abnormally large, and the recovery is frequently protracted and unsatisfactory.

Puerperium.—During the puerperal period influenza causes much distress, and great prostration, but rarely produces fatal results. I think, indeed, that in a large proportion of such cases the recovery is fairly rapid, and satisfactory; and, generally, the infant suffers but little. Any complication, however, at such a time is extremely unfortunate. As a rule the uncomplicated disease does not interfere materially with lactation. In some cases it is well to supplement the temporary deficiency of mother's milk with artificial feeding for a time, but it is rarely necessary to resort entirely to the administration of artificial foods.

I have gone over the records of the Burnside Lying-in Hospital, of Toronto, during the epidemics of la-grippe, and have made out the following tabulated statement:

BURNSIDE LYING-IN HOSPITAL, TORONTO.
THREE EPIDEMICS OF INFLUENZA.

	Normal Temp, i. e. never over 100° F.	Abnormal Temp. i. e. at some time over 100° F. Causes various—slight.	Influenza.	Surgical Septicæmia.	Total.
1890—3 months.....	27	8	8	1 (?)	44
1892—6 weeks.....	16	..	1	..	17
1893—9 weeks.....	17	..	10	1 died 1 (?)	29
	60	8	19	3	90

From this it will be seen that, during the most severe epidemic in January, February and March of 1890, forty-four women were delivered. Of these, eight had influenza, and one had a mild surgical septicæmia. Of the eight cases of influenza, all made uneventful recoveries. During the second epidemic the results were remarkably good. With the exception of one slight influenza all the patients made normal recoveries. In the third epidemic, out of twenty-nine delivered, ten had influenza, but made good recoveries. One patient with somewhat serious symptoms for a few days recovered. One patient died from puerperal septicæmia in four days after delivery. It would be a great comfort to me if I could think that influenza was in any degree a cause of this death; but, unfortunately, I could find no evidence in that direction.

In all three epidemics there were ninety deliveries, with nineteen cases of influenza attacking the patients at various stages of the puerperium—from the third to the fourteen day. The attacks lasted from two to five days; and I must say I was much surprised to see such simple and complete recoveries in all the cases. In the two doubtful cases I think one was a septicæmia with influenza superadded, and the other a septicæmia from ordinary surgical causes. Both, however, made fairly good and rapid recoveries.

Prognosis.—The prospects of complete recovery, under all the circumstances to which I have referred, are good under proper treatment from the commencement of the attack. During pregnancy the patient runs the ordinary risks as to complications, and the dangers of such complications, especially pulmonary, are greater than in the non-pregnant state. The danger of abortion exists in some degree in all cases, but is especially great in the presence of complications. Fortunately pregnant women take much better care of themselves, partly on account of the maternal instinct, which, while it has to some extent influenced them since babyhood, is especially active during gestation; and, on the other hand, they are better cared for by their friends who combine in their efforts to protect them from all ills, supposed and real, until they have passed through pregnancy, labor, and the puerperal state. These factors combined form wonderful safeguards against the disasters which are produced by exposure and undue exertion during the ordinary course of the disease.