

the walls of the uterus—septic metritis—or the cellular tissues around the uterus—para-metritis—or the peritoneum covering the uterus and its appendages—peri-metritis—or the entire peritoneum—suppurative peritonitis—or may enter the lymphatics and blood vessels—systemic infection. These forms of general infection present few if any local symptoms, in the most virulent types, the temperature may be normal or slightly above, the lochial discharge free of odor and abdominal tenderness late in appearing.

It is in these cases of puerpural infection after labor that a correct diagnosis, including the nature of the infection, is absolutely necessary. Nature is endeavoring to prevent the absorption of poison and the entrance of germs into the system by the formation of a zone of granulation tissue at the base of the endometrium. If we in the process of curetting or douching weaken or break through this protecting wall we favor the extension of the disease and lessen or destroy the chances of recovery for the patient. The frequent occurrence of chills and sudden rise of temperature after these operations is direct evidence of the injury that has been inflicted.

In recapitulating we would emphasize the importance of—

- 1st, surgical cleanliness ;
- 2nd, a careful estimate of the conditions present in each case, and of the treatment to be applied ;
- 3rd, prompt evacuation and curetting of the uterus in every case of inevitable abortion, except where hemorrhage is slight and the case progressing ;
- 4th, curetting and irrigating all cases of incomplete and neglected abortion, whether infected or not ;
- 5th, curetting and irrigating all cases of puerpural infection following labor, where the infection is confined to the endometrium—after the infection has invaded the system the curette will do no good ;
- 6th, using the sharp curette in cases of inevitable abortion—the blunt curette in all others ;
- 7th, using antiseptic solutions for irrigation in cases of infection only ;
- 8th, using no gauze for drainage in the puerpural uterus, first, because we do not think gauze favors drainage ; second, because the uterus is a glandular organ specially adapted for drainage, able to take care of itself if left unobstructed.

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