

day. Which either proves the superiority of women over man by way of versatility and endurance, or it may be accepted as a protest by nature against modern attempts to set insuperable barriers.—*N. Y. Med. Rec.*

THE CONTAGIOUSNESS OF PUERPERAL FEVERS.—From the classical article of Oliver Wendell Holmes, which was published in 1843 and which has just been republished, we take his eight conclusions, which will be most interesting to the younger brothers of the profession who may believe that antiseptic midwifery is something very new. "Honor to him to whom honor is due."

1. A physician holding himself in readiness to attend cases of midwifery should never take any active part in the *post-mortem* examination of cases of puerperal fever.

2. If a physician is present at such autopsies, he should use thorough ablution, change every article of dress, and allow twenty-four hours or more to elapse before attending to any case of midwifery. It may be well to extend the same caution to cases of simple peritonitis.

3. Similar precautions should be taken after the autopsy or surgical treatment of erysipelas, if the physician is obliged to unite such offices with his obstetrical duties, which is in the highest degree inexpedient.

4. On the occurrence of a single case of puerperal fever in his practice, the physician is bound to consider the next female he attends in labor, unless some weeks at least have elapsed, as in danger of being infected by him, and it is his duty to take every precaution to diminish her risk of disease and death.

5. If within a short period two cases of puerperal fever happen close to each other in the practice of the same physician, the disease not existing or prevailing in the neighborhood, he would do wisely to relinquish his obstetrical practice for at least one month, and endeavor to free himself by every available means from any noxious influence he may carry about with him.

6. The occurrence of three or more closely connected cases, in the practice of one individual, no others existing in the neighborhood, and no other sufficient cause being alleged for the coincidence, is *prima facie* evidence that he is the vehicle of contagion.

7. It is the duty of the physician to take every precaution that the disease shall not be introduced by nurses or other assistants, by making proper inquiries concerning them, and giving timely warning of every suspected source of danger.

8. Whatever indulgence may be granted to those who have heretofore been the ignorant causes of so much misery, the time has come

when the existence of a *private pestilence* in the sphere of a single physician should be looked upon not as a misfortune, but a crime; and in the knowledge of such occurrences, the duties of the practitioner to his profession should give way to his paramount obligations to society.—*Annals of Gynecology and Pediatrics.*

THE SAVAGERY OF FASHION.—Not a whit too early, but rather too late, has come the protest issued a few days ago by Mr. W. H. Hudson against the indiscriminate killing of birds for the sake of their plumage. Fashion of late has been forgetfully merciful in this matter. Birds for ladies' wear have not commanded a market, and perhaps a few struggling species owe their still recognisable existence to this cause. Unfortunately there are signs that the grateful period of oversight has expired, for again we hear of a coming "rage" for "wings." In other words, our mothers, wives, and daughters are being persuaded into a return to the old practices of self-decoration, which it appears were only for a time in abeyance. What these implied may be judged from the fact that many species of brightly feathered birds, according to present ornithological records, are already on the verge of extinction. Little wonder is it that this can be said when we reflect upon the heedless barbarity and wanton waste of life which commonly characterise the methods of the bird-killer, his unconcern either for close time or any other season, for the kind or number of his victims (if only he succeeds in making a living by them), and for any form of remonstrance which does not touch his pocket. The appeal to which we have referred was made to women, for whose adornment so many ruthless depredations have been made upon the treasures of nature. Most of them who have any pretensions either to feeling or intelligence will, we are assured, admit the force of that appeal. It is, indeed, a monstrous thing that has evoked it. Forms of life inimitable in beauty as in adaptation, gems of nature's workmanship, antique, enduring, irrecoverable if lost, are to be wantonly destroyed—why? In order that a dress or a bonnet may for some pleasant hours attract a little social attention. A more Goth-like idea of refinement it would be difficult to find. The force of trade interest lately acquired for seals a right to protection. Even the same force, wherever it is instructed by science, and supported by the most rudimentary sense of humanity, demands a similar right for the feathered creation. It is sincerely to be hoped that the purchasing public and our legislators alike will early recognise this right, and will provide against any attempt to infringe it.—*Lancet.*

RHEUMATISM AND ARTERIO-SCLEROSIS. — Dr. Manteuffel discusses the relation of so-called rheu-