

treatment should be repeated within thirty hours, and if necessary kept up until all danger is past. The objects obtained by injecting the iron, are: first, the instantaneous destruction of every germ exposed to its action, for no germ or spore can withstand pure tincture of iron; in the next place all absorbents are sealed up so that even if it were possible that septic matter remained in the uterus it would not be absorbed; and lastly, the uterus is stimulated to contract. This treatment is safe, simple, satisfactory and painless. No special skill is required in carrying it out and there is no risk of injuring the patient. I believe a very considerable mass of placenta might remain safely in the uterus until it was disintegrated and expelled under the treatment above outlined. In proof of the satisfactory results I shall quote a few cases in the order in which they occurred and without selection:

CASE 1.—Mrs. H, had been confined a week before I saw her. On my first visit, March 28th, 1897, at 10 p.m. her temperature was 105, pulse 136, expression in every way bad, skin livid, chills frequent and severe, in fact her condition was apparently hopeless. The uterus was explored with the finger but contained only shreds, and acting on the principle that an attempt at scraping them away would open large absorbing surfaces, curetting was avoided. The uterus was thoroughly washed out with water, tincture ferri perchloride injected, and nothing further done locally. By the evening of the 29th the temperature had fallen to 103, and her condition greatly improved. Until 9 p.m. on the 30th, steady improvement went on and her temperature fell almost to normal, but at this time a severe chill came on and at 10 p.m. her temperature was 105. The uterus was again washed out and the iron injected, and by next morning her temperature had gone down to 100. This last chill was allowed to take place by overlooking the fact that the duration of the protection afforded by the iron was limited, and that not more than twenty-four or at most thirty hours should elapse until a re-injection was done. The injection was repeated on March 31st and April 1st, and the patient went on to an uninterrupted recovery.

CASE 2.—Mrs. G., on the fourth day after her confinement took a severe chill, temperature at 8 a.m. on morning after chill being 103. At this time the uterus was washed out and injected, and next morning temperature was 100, when a second treatment was given, after which steady progress to recovery took place.

CASE 3.—Mrs. E., on third morning after confinement the usual symptoms of septic infection were present, temperature 104. Then I tried the old routine treatment of washing out the uterus with carbolic acid and bichloride of mercury for two