

These gentlemen recorded their observations on an ordinary temperature chart, the 100 deg. line being taken as the top of the symphysis, each degree above representing one inch.

This method of regularly measuring the height of the fundus above the top of the symphysis, and the charting of the same, was introduced into the Toronto General Hospital in the year 1901 by Dr. Adam Wright, and some of the material for this paper has been obtained from the records there, the balance being from private cases.

In the making of these measurements certain rules must be followed, otherwise one is apt to get results which may be misleading:

1. The measurements should be made daily and preferably as near as possible at the same hour each day.

2. The patient must have passed water within a very short time before measuring, and the obstetrician should satisfy himself that the bladder has been emptied, especially in the first two or three days of the puerperium.

3. If the bowels have not moved within twenty-four hours care must be taken that the rectum is not overloaded. Neglect of these last two precautions is probably the most frequent source of error.

4. The uterus should be gently massaged for a few minutes before measuring, so that one may always measure it in the same condition, and not in a state of contraction one day and that of relaxation the next.

Having excluded these sources of error one will find the fundus from five to six inches above the top of the symphysis pubis on the day after labor, and, if all be well, below the symphysis, in the vast majority of cases, by the end of ten days or two weeks. The rate and regularity of the fall may be influenced by certain things, some of which may be looked upon as pathological, and others as physiological. The progress of involution may be delayed by: 1. Multiparity. 2. Advanced years. 3. Lactation. 4. Prematurity of labor. 5. Prolonged labor. 6. Retention of secundines or blood clot. 7. Septic infection of the endometrium. 8. Lacerations of the cervix. 9. Grave disturbances of health from any cause.

The curve in a primipara is normally about half an inch lower