

THE PROPHYLACTIC WASHING OUT OF THE UTERUS WITH CARBOLIC LOTION AFTER DELIVERY.

Professor Stadfeldt, of Copenhagen, contributes a paper on this subject to No. 7 of the *Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, 1880. He states that the previous communication in No. 5 of the *Centralblatt* (reported by us in the *Medical News and Abstract* for May, 1880, p. 302) led him to communicate some observations on the application of an antiseptic treatment modified to suit lying-in women. The author has employed this method since 1870 with ever-increasing energy, and communicated a paper on "Maternities, their Organization and Administration," to the Brussels Congress, in which he publishes his experiences. In that communication the author was able to state, that in the quinquennium 1870-74 the mortality in the Copenhagen University lying-in institution had been reduced to 1 in 87, whilst the majority during the three previous quinquennia varied from 1 in 37 to 1 in 14, and had at no single quinquennium during the long existence of the institution been nearly so low. The relation is still more favorable in the last quinquennium 1875-79, since of 5098 lying-in women only 44 died of puerperal fever, *i. e.* 1 in 116. This result the author considers more favorable than can be presented by any similar lying-in institution which receives patients from all the hospital quarters of a town, as well as from the workhouses, in which primiparæ are decidedly in the majority. The author contends, that not only the mortality but the morbidity of the patients is diminished by the antiseptic precautions. The method adopted by the author is methodical washing out of the vagina before delivery, the application of carbolic vapor spray during the delivery, and intra-uterine injections with carbolic lotion after delivery. The author expresses his astonishment that the application of carbolic spray has found so little acceptance in lying-in institutions, stating that in the Copenhagen Maternity it has been four years in use for every labor, without having caused any injurious results to mother or child. He states, also, that its application causes so little trouble that he cannot see why a method so reasonable for a lying-in institution should be summarily pushed aside. The spray must be commenced from the moment when the parts of the child begin to show themselves at the vulva until any tears which may have occurred during the delivery in the vulva are united by suture, and the genital opening is covered with a layer of prepared jute. The intra-uterine washings after delivery have been found specially beneficial under certain conditions, although he has only used three p. c. solution, but in large quantity. He has never observed any evil results from these injections in hundreds of cases. He does not recommend

such injections in every case, however, but only when the hand or instruments have been introduced into the passages, or when remains of membranes have been retained in the uterus. A brief account of twelve cases is given in support of the advantage derivable from the use of intra-uterine injections.—*Edinburgh Med. Journal*, June, 1880.

QUINIA IN OBSTETRICS.

A correspondent of the *Louisville Medical News* says that, in his experience, puerperal fever, abscess of the breast, phlegmasia dolens, and the like, may be prevented with almost absolute certainty by the administration of quinia prior and subsequently to childbirth. Iron is often a valuable ally of quinia, and should be used freely.

ON THE CEREBRAL SYMPTOMS PRODUCED BY IMPACTED CERUMEN.

By WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, M.D., Professor of Diseases of the Mind and Nervous System in the University of the City of New York. (Read before the New York Neurological Society, November 4th, 1878.)

There is nothing new in the fact that impacted cerumen in one or both ears is capable of giving rise to notable disturbances of cerebral and nervous action, but the circumstance does not seem to have attracted the attention it deserves, except perhaps so far only as the sense of hearing is concerned. Kramer* does not even mention the existence of any brain symptoms in connection with the disorder in question, though specially detailing those exhibited as the result of noises in the ear.

Toynbee†, however, is more explicit—he says:

The symptoms of a collection of cerumen in the meatus vary according to the nature and position of the mass. Sometimes the whole of the meatus is distended by cerumen, the inner end of which lies in contact with the outer surface of the membrana tympani of which it forms a cast. In these cases there is often giddiness, from the pressure on the chain of ossicles. The symptoms of pressure on the brain are familiar to most surgeons, but it is not generally known that pressure on the contents of the labyrinth produces somewhat analogous symptoms. A mass of cerumen may force inwards the membrana tympani and the chain of bones until the base of the stapes is pressed against the contents of the vestibule. In some cases of this

* The Aural Surgery of the Present Day; New Sydenham Society Publication, 1863.

† The Diseases of the Ear, their Nature, Diagnosis and Treatment. American Edition, 1860, p. 80.