

For the many answers to my queries received from medical friends throughout Canada, I beg, without naming them, for that they might not like, to return my very sincere thanks.

I am fully aware of not having been able to gather anything new, or at all striking, from any quarter of the wide field gone over, and I did not expect to do so. But to make the enquiries and to get answers from so many parts of the Dominion interested me greatly, and I hope the subject may not prove altogether devoid of interest to those who have done me the honor of being present. I heartily thank the medical section of the Congress for their patient hearing of this paper. I have only to regret having had too little time at my disposal to make my researches as exhaustive as could have wished, over an area comprising many thousands of miles, stretching as it does across the western part of the American continent, and presenting climatic and other differences, great, in proportion to its vast extent.

#### TREATMENT OF POST PARTUM HEMORRHAGE—BY INTRA-UTERINE INJECTION OF BRANDY OR WHISKEY.

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Post-partum hemorrhage is much less frequently met with to-day in practice than formerly, since the introduction of uterine compression during the latter part of the second and third stages of labor as the most powerful preventative against this alarming accident. Yet now and then, in spite of all our efforts, we will occasionally have to treat it. Some years ago I drew attention through the medical press of this country to the inestimable value of the intra-uterine injection of pure brandy or whiskey as being a most powerful and prompt uterine contractor, and far superior to any other agent I have ever used, hot water or iron not excepted, and free from the dangers attending the use of iron; it does not coagulate the blood in the mouths of the uterine vessels and expose the patient to the danger of death from embolism, but merely produces the most powerful and prompt uterine contraction. Within the last week it has been my misfortune to come across two very severe cases of post-partum hemorrhage. In both cases I tried hot water, as hot as I could use it,

without producing the desired contraction, and in one case I treated only last night, I feel very sure had I not used brandy as an intra-uterine injection I would have lost the patient, a delicate woman, second child; who had been in labor about twelve hours, and after the birth of her child she seemed much exhausted and prostrated. The placenta came away shortly after the child's birth, but the uterus did not contract. I emptied it three times with my hand and injected copiously very hot water, without producing any effect whatever. I finally injected a tumbler full of pure brandy. The action of contraction was almost instantaneous; the uterus became hard and firm, and remained so. Not only does it produce rapid contraction, but its stimulating effect on the heart and pulse is generally noticed. I think undoubtedly it is also absorbed into the blood. In all cases in which I have used it, the patients express a sensation of warmth and comfort in the uterine region, so unlike the chilling effect after the use of ice.

Before its use the uterine cavity must be cleared out of all clots, and then inject a tumblerful of pure brandy—whiskey will answer as well. To those practitioners who have not tried this plan of treatment, I most heartily commend it.

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#### THE QUESTION OF ABSCISSION OF THE TONSILS.

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An experience, ranging over a considerable number of years, has taught me that there is hardly any matter connected with the practice of medicine about which exists greater divergence of opinion among practitioners, and of which more superstitious fear is felt by the laity, than of the operation of removal of the tonsils. For an explanation of this feeling amongst the laity, I am inclined to believe that we must look to the ancient belief that the tonsils were, in some occult way, connected with the testes, just as the external ear was supposed to be; and hence, thieves were deprived of their auricular appendage partly as a mark of disgrace, but more probably with a view to preventing the propagation of their kind. The profession have perhaps, to some extent, inherited