

*Acute Septicæmia*.—Common in old times, in epidemic form, in lying-in hospitals. Soon after delivery there is an acute rigor, temperature runs up rapidly and either remains very high or sinks below normal, the pulse is rapid and feeble, the face anxious and pinched, tongue dry and brown. Death in a day or two, or within a week.

Thus, in the group of febrile affections due to infection by microbes or their products, we have more or less rapid rise of temperature, a more or less continuous duration of the same, with rapid pulse, quickened respiration, and other constitutional symptoms. Occasionally there is subnormal temperature, but then there are signs of profound prostration. Sometimes chills followed by fever recur every two or three days, indicating fresh periods of absorption.

Besides septic wound infection, many other causes may elevate the temperature. During the puerperal period pre-existing febrile conditions are aggravated and dormant tendencies roused into activity.

*Lung Affections*.—*Phthisis* may advance rapidly after labor and give rise to symptoms which might be readily mistaken for septic mischief.

*Pneumonia, pleurisy or bronchitis* may underlie the fever, and for a time avoid detection.

The *exanthemata, diphtheria, erysipelas, malaria, rheumatism* may precede, complicate or follow labor. They may have been incubating at the time of labor and only manifest themselves during the puerperium; in fact such diseases are apt to precipitate labor. The effect of labor upon febrile cases is generally more or less disastrous,—the pain, violent muscular effort, interference with respiration and circulation, and the loss of blood are apt to produce a condition not unlike surgical shock. The temperature falls below normal, the pulse becomes quick, irregular and feeble, there is cold, clammy sweat, and great exhaustion. There has been great difference of opinion as to the effect of the exanthemata, diphtheria and erysipelas upon puerperal women. Some maintain that *scarlatina*, for instance, is always the classical scarlatina with its typical rash and sore throat, modified, perhaps, but still quite easily recognisable as scarlatina. Others