

readily, as a rule, for there are exceptions to the rule, be kept at 100° for weeks together.

Unfortunately, there are almost unsurmountable difficulties connected with the use of this invaluable method in the minds of the patient's friends, the patient herself, the nurse, and, alas, too often, the attending physician. You are told that the patient becomes chilled, that the coil prevents her resting, that the temperature absolutely goes up under its use and descends whenever it is left off. By the doctor you are apt to be informed that his fear of resulting pleurisy, bronchitis or pneumonia is very great.

I will merely say, in refutation to these charges, that in my service in the Woman's Hospital, where convalescents from laparotomy are constantly under treatment in large numbers, this means of controlling temperature is as commonly and as freely in use as poultices are in general hospitals, or gargles in dispensaries for diseases of the throat. We never meet with any of these difficulties, and very rarely with failures as to the desired result, and I believe that I am correct in saying that successive house-staffs whose duty it has been to carry out the plan have thus far had, to a man, the most implicit faith in its beneficial agency.

There are some peculiarities about it, however, which I must mention: Very often the coil will not succeed in controlling the temperature, for twenty-four hours; its prolonged use alone develops and illustrates its great benefits; and removing it from the body for an hour at a time damages its influence very much. I have never seen evil result from the chilliness which it excites, if hot bottles be kept at the soles of the feet, and in not one instance out of hundreds of cases have I seen pneumonia or pleurisy excited by it.

4. The nervous system should be kept under the influence of febrifuge medicines as to keep under the control the tendency to chill and pyrexia. For this purpose, fifteen grains of sulphate of quinine should be given in capsule or by suppository night and morning, or in place of this, two capsules may be given night and morning of Warburg's tincture, in the form of solid extract, as advised by Dr. J. T. Metcalf. Lastly, to the same end, the salicylate of sodium may be employed.

5. The patient's diet should consist entirely of fluid food, given often, and in small amounts. The staple article should be milk, but animal broths and gruels may be alternated with it with advantage.

6. At the very commencement of such a case the attending physician should, in the patient's interest, surround himself with efficient and abundant assistance. If he undertake to wash out the uterus every four or five hours without other assistance than that of the nurse; and if the patient is to rely for the constant attention and care which she will inevitably require, upon one nurse, it is needless to point out that the duty of both doctor and nurse—vital duties, be it remembered—will be but half performed. And, unfortunately, the penalty will fall upon the patient and her friends.

For a case of puerperal septicæmia to be properly treated in private practice by the plan here advocated, it is necessary for the attending physician to associate with himself some young practitioner, who has the time to devote to the case, and the intelligence to use the uterine douche safely and efficiently. Furthermore, two nurses are necessary: one to be in charge for twelve hours, and the other then to relieve and replace her for an equal time. Without the rest and sleep thus afforded, no nurse taking charge of such exacting cases as these can possibly do her duty in such a way as to subserve the patient's interest. As a rule, the nurse will begin with the declaration that she is competent and willing to take entire charge; that she is one of those people who can do without sleep, etc.; and her heroic offers of self-sacrifice are hailed with enthusiasm by the terrified family. To believe in and to act upon this would be very foolish and very dangerous. After three nights of watching, this same nurse would snore through the hours in which her patient needed her, give the wrong medicines, mislead the doctor, allow the bladder to become distended with urine, and fail in every requirement of the occasion.

If the patient cannot bear the great expense attendant upon the extra service which I have mentioned, it is her misfortune, and for such as herself the doors of our hospitals are open. There is no case of ovariectomy in the Woman's Hospital, however poor the patient be, upon which, thanks to the generous arrangements of its managers, just such attendance as I have mentioned is not lavished.

The antiseptics which have heretofore been tried under these circumstances are thymol, boric acid, salicylic acid, carbolic acid, and mercuric bichloride. Of these, all have disappeared before the superior merits of the last two; and carbolic acid, which for so long a time has been almost supreme, appears about to be abolished in favor of the bichloride of mercury, 1 part to 1,000 or 2,000 of water. For all antiseptic purposes outside of the uterus, the bichloride is now, owing to the carefully made and important investigations of Koch, very generally employed in the strength of 1 to 1,000, and the uterus has now been washed out with this excellent germicide 1 to 2,000, often enough to make us regard its use as an intra-uterine injection as entirely warrantable. If carbolic acid be used in that way, it will not be safe to carry its strength beyond a two, or, at most, a two-and-a-half per cent. solution.

INFANT FEEDING.

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It has been my custom for some years, after having brought before the class numerous cases of children's diseases which make our clinic so interesting, to call your attention to an important