

From my own experience and from the reports obtained I can confidently recommend the use of vinegar in post-partum hemorrhage. It is a remedy, if not always at hand, at any moment procurable, simple and harmless, not open to the objection against ergot, which in the hands of midwives is very liable to be used to hasten delivery, nor to the serious disadvantage and dangers of intra-uterine injections. If further trials, on a more extended scale, confirm my experience, I have no hesitation in saying that vinegar will have to be regarded almost as the specific for post-partum hemorrhage.

As a styptic, I believe vinegar will be found to be a very efficient remedy in all cases in which ergot has proved to be a successful remedy. As a local application in hemorrhage, I believe it to be far superior.

I have given vinegar in several cases after labor when the uterus was slow in contracting. In every case contraction took place almost immediately. In one case of flooding it acted equally prompt, but in another it was rejected by the stomach.

After-pains are produced by the alternate contraction and relaxation of the muscular fibres of the uterus. If you can keep up a permanent contraction of the uterus you will have no after-pains. To accomplish the above object, I had been in the habit for some time of giving two or three drops of fluid extract of scela every two hours, with complete success. The last patient I waited on had been married just about ten years and a half; during that time she had been the mother of nine children, besides having had two miscarriages, all single births. She told me that she usually got no sleep for two days and nights after the birth of the child, on account of the after-pains. After the birth of the child the uterus felt flat, no tendency to assume a globular form: I gave about one ounce of vinegar; contraction soon came and I removed the placenta. It occurred to me if vinegar was more effectual than ergot in keeping up contraction, it should be more effectual than ergot in keeping off the after-pains. I mixed a half a glass of vinegar and water in equal proportions and ordered a

teaspoonful to be given every two hours. She slept nearly all night. Very little after-pain; thinks she would have slept the whole night had not the baby awakened her occasionally by crying; very little lochia, much less than usual. The next night had three or four pretty sharp pains. Uterus feels very small, very little lochia; pulse 55-56; temperature 97°. The following day pulse 57-62. Temperature 98½°. Breasts full of milk; baby nursed up to last night, but will not to-day. Directed patient to get a nipple-shield for baby to nurse through. No after-pains, no tenderness of uterus, very little lochia; only took two doses of vinegar to-day; to take one or two doses more, and then stop.

My son has tried Dr. Penrose's plan of squeezing the vinegar from a rag conveyed by the hand into the cavity of the uterus. In the first case it acted very promptly, forcing the coagulated blood, hand, rag, all out of the uterus at once. In two other cases, he says, the vinegar produced so much smarting about the vulva that the patients twisted and squirmed about so that he could not get his hand into the uterus. I tried it in one case, the one where both vinegar and ergot failed, but I think in passing the hand through the vulva the vinegar was nearly all squeezed out of the rag, so it produced very little effect. I think a much better plan would be to use a rubber bag, with a long curved nozzle attached; such as is now used for injecting styptics into the uterus.

I think the dose of vinegar from a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful, in most cases of active hemorrhage, would be amply sufficient.—*British Medical Jour.*

MERCURIAL INUNCTION IN TYPHOID FEVER.

Three years ago (January 31st, 1885, p. 244) a short account was given of a method of treating typhoid fever which Dr. Kalb, of Thalmassing, had found very successful in one hundred cases in which he had tried it; in 80 per cent. of the cases fever had entirely disappeared within ten days. The treatment consisted of rubbing one gramme (15 grains) of mercury ointment into the abdomen