

live of evil. Emetics, ergot and cold, increase the depression—to say nothing of the time required for the first to act—or the after effect of drenching an exhausted woman's bed at such a time with cold water. Kneading the uterus, and pressure applied either instrumentally or by the bandage and various kinds of pads, often injure the organ, and predispose to various puerperal affections—and at any rate cannot be persisted in, unless found immediately effective.

In the early days of my practice, I have tried most of these to a greater or less extent. I never was guilty of emptying a pitcher or pail of cold water from a height, upon the naked abdomen of a recently delivered and exhausted woman,—I think I shall never do so,—but the other remedies, I, as a young beginner, have tried over and over again, because they were recommended, and all with a few exceptions were soon abandoned as useless or worse when prompt action was required. Of these, ergot, administered as a preventive, when the head is on the perineum, or immediately after delivery, is the best. I always place the left hand firmly over the fundus uteri as the head is being born, having found this good in all cases, and after carefully placing it in the hand of an assistant, with directions how to proceed, I keep an uninterrupted watch over it until the placenta is removed and the bandage applied. Of the remainder, *with one exception*, I have long ceased to put faith in them; this *one*, however, namely, the careful introduction of the hand into the uterus to remove clots and excite contraction, as recommended by Dr. Gooch, though condemned by many eminent men, has frequently in my experience proved a safe and ready method of arresting the flow. As regards the use of galvanism, first recommended many years ago by Dr. Radford of Manchester, it is too inconvenient to be always on hand—and not so simple and readily available as to be depended upon by the general practitioner.

In November, 1869, Dr. Barnes read a paper before the Obstetrical Society of London, strongly advising in these cases, an injection into the cavity of the uterus, previously emptied of its contents, of a solution of the perchloride of iron. The idea did not originate with Dr. Barnes. It was first mentioned, I think, by D' Outrepont, and more especially recommended by Riwisch in 1840

—since which period, though it has not appeared in our text-books, solutions of the perchloride, per-nitral, and per-sulphate of iron have been extensively used in the same manner by many eminent accoucheurs. I have never found it necessary to use it. I can only say that in a very considerable obstetric practice extending over twenty-five years I have never met with a case of post-partum hæmorrhage which resisted the means already at my disposal, except when complicated with rupture of the uterus—to which it would be inapplicable. I have never seen but one woman die from accidental hæmorrhage, and that one was moribund when I reached the house—and drew her last breath as I advanced to the bed whereon she lay; but this I believe has been because while availing myself in ordinary cases of some of the means ordinarily recommended, I have never depended upon them, nor wasted time in their application, knowing that I possessed a remedy, safe,—certain, expeditious, and easy of administration; one which the most ignorant assistant can at once prepare, and from which I have never, in the very large number of cases in which I have used it, observed any ill effects.

It is to this particular means of arresting post-partum hæmorrhage of the kind referred to, that I venture now to recall the attention of the profession; believing that if understandingly used, the cases must be remarkably rare in which any other need be resorted to—and confident from long experience with it that no bad results follow its use: I refer to *injections into the cavity of the uterus of dilute alcohol*.

The idea did not originate with me. It was first proposed by Mr. Cattell in a communication to the *Lancet* of Dec. 6th, 1845, but my attention was first directed to it in 1848 by an article from Mr. Torbock which appeared the year previous; since which time, so far as I am aware—no special mention has been made in the medical press of this mode of treatment, which has certainly not hitherto met with the attention it so eminently deserves. In the late exhaustive discussion on Dr. Barnes's paper before the Obstetrical Society of London—at which every other course of treatment was passed in review, it is not so much as mentioned.

The first practical trial of its efficacy was made by me in 1849. I have since thoroughly tested it,