

ted in the blood or uterine cavity; yet Williams, of Johns Hopkins reports two cases of puerperal insanity in which pure cultures of streptococci pyogenes were obtained from the cavity of the uterus. Berkeley reports a case in which growths of streptococci were got from the blood and from the vaginal secretions during life. Clouston also reports a similar case.

Hansen estimates that 80% of the lying-in psychoses have an infectious or toxic origin. Cases of the latter class are due to the accumulation of certain chemical products of incomplete metabolism. These irritate during pregnancy, the nervous system and at the supreme moment of delivery lead to a pathological reaction in the form of an eclampsia, a psychosis or both.

Insanity in an acute or chronic form in the non-pregnant from a renal lesion is frequently met with, and the hallucinatory-confusional excitement closely resembles that so remarkable in puerperal cases. Eight years ago in a report of some observations gleaned from post-mortem examinations of the insane, the essayist called attention to the large proportion of cases in which a chronic kidney lesion was discovered without any previous history of alcoholism, syphilis or gout. He pointed out then that there was more significance probably in the matter of kidney lesion than in the mere fact of its occurrence.

In the asylum, the mental disorders arising from auto-intoxication are most frequently due to intestinal putrefaction.

To look upon every recent case as having some physical cause by which we must endeavour to account for the mental phenomena is the only correct basis upon which to commence and continue the treatment of the acute insane.

The therapeutic advances achieved in the treatment of the insane have been few. The main object is to ascertain any pathological condition, local or general, and endeavour to correct the same. The use of intestinal disinfectants has been extolled by Bouchard and others, but the essayist has never been satisfied that his results could be attributed to such remedies. The preference is to rely more upon thorough and complete cleansing of the alimentary tract by the free use of salines and lavage of the stomach. The skin is to be kept free, and sedatives discarded as far as possible. Both ends are secured by the use of the spray bath. There is no sleep producing agent equal in its effects.

The following case reports are chosen to illustrate: Case I. M. H. C., act 22. Single, farmer's daughter, housework. Previously healthy. Heredity denied. First attack of insanity one month before admission, assigned cause—domestic worries.

Medical certificate asserts that she is greatly excited, laughing and