

During the night the patient continued to grow worse, diarrhoea set in with greenish and very offensive stools. Respiration became more difficult and laboured and cyanosis increased. Delirium was followed by coma, and death occurred at 10 o'clock a.m., on the 9th, 16 hours after admission. At the autopsy, which was held at 1 o'clock p.m. on the 10th of January, 27 hours after death, considerable effusion of blood stained serum was found in both pleuræ. The lungs were congested and œdematous, but there was no pneumonia. There was some fluid in the pericardium and recent lymph on the valves of the heart. The peritoneum, more especially in the neighbourhood of the uterus, was covered with a thick, almost purulent lymph. The intestines were matted together. The uterus was enlarged and its substance softened. On the inner surface at the placental site was a small patch of broken down tissue—probably a portion of the placenta. There was no thrombosis noted anywhere.

(I am indebted to Dr. W. A. Brown, Senior House Physician of the Royal Victoria Hospital for the above facts.)

Cultures of the peritoneal fluid made by Dr. Adami showed abundance of streptococci.

Dr. F. R. Engliand, who saw this patient at her home, informs me that there was no infectious disease in the house at the time of confinement, but that scarlatina was very prevalent in the immediate neighbourhood.

The second case in the series was that of Dr. J. W. Scane, Senior House Surgeon, Royal Victoria Hospital, who has written to me the following account of his illness:—"I attended the autopsy on Wednesday, Jan. 10th, as a spectator only. After remaining in the room a short time, I left to get measuring glasses for Dr. Adami, and on my return I jammed my right index finger in the door, knocking off a small portion of skin at the root of the nail. I did not touch anything in the room—on the contrary, knowing the case to be septic, I at once put my hands in my pockets and left the room. I was quite well till next morning (Thursday), when I had a severe attack of diarrhoea. I felt miserable all day with headache and general soreness all through my body. About four o'clock p.m., Dr.