

## THE HYGIENE OF CHILDBEARING

recognize the warning signs of those dangers my object will be accomplished.

### ABORTION

**Danger.**—Abortion or miscarriage is always accompanied by danger whether it occurs from accidental causes or from criminal interference. Of course criminal abortion is much the more dangerous both because of the danger of infection and because serious injuries to the organs are often inflicted by persons ignorant of anatomy.

**Early Abortion.**—An idea prevails extensively among the public that there is little danger in an early abortion. Doctors often hear pleas for help from women who say they have missed only one menstrual period and therefore they say there can be no danger in "doing something." Nothing can be farther from the truth. In an experience of thirty years I have seen a good many women lose their lives from abortion. *A very large majority of these (over 90 per cent.) were less than two months pregnant.*

**Reason of Danger.**—The reason for this is not hard to understand. The two chief dangers in abortion are blood-poisoning and hemorrhage. Very few die from hemorrhage; most of the deaths are due to blood-poisoning; and in early abortion the danger of blood-poisoning is greatly increased by the difficulty of emptying the uterus, and the frequency with which it is wounded.

**Symptoms.**—The principal symptoms of threatened abortion are pain and bleeding. If a pregnant woman