

with him, and the best and most easily obtainable form is the liquor ferri perchloridi fortior of the B.P., and should be used diluted with six times the bulk of water. It is important that the air should be got rid of out of the syringe with which it is introduced into the uterus, and to get the best effect the uterus should be emptied of all clots, etc., before its use. After its use for some days, intra-uterine injections should be used to remove the coagula which are certain to form, and thus avoid sapræmia.

Winkel says, in severe cases of hæmorrhage where other means have been tried and failed, equal parts of the liquor ferri perchloridi and water may be slowly injected into the uterus with good effect, or it may be applied by means of a sponge or piece of absorbent cotton to the site of the hæmorrhage.

Reynolds, of Boston, recommends that in severe cases of hæmorrhage, Monsell's solution or liquor ferri persulphatis diluted with four times its quantity of water should be passed into the uterine cavity on a ball of absorbent cotton, the uterus being first cleared of all clots.

Dr. Norris, of Pennsylvania, considers that styptic salts of iron are dangerous, as the coagula produced by them may extend into the vessels, and must be broken up by putrefaction, exposing the patient to septic poison.

To sum up with regard to the use of iron in postpartum hæmorrhage, several of the standard authorities, such as Playfair, Winkel, etc., recommend its use as being the only remedy that is invariably successful. My own experience has been most favorable to the use of iron, and in the Women's Hospital, as well as in private practice, the invariable rule is in all cases of alarming hæmorrhage, to use liquor ferri perchloridi diluted with from six to ten times its bulk of water. I have never had an accident during or after its use; the results have been invariably gratifying. A common objection has been raised, and that is air being injected into the vessels. I fail to see that it is any more likely to be injected with the iron solution than with any other injection, although one could perhaps understand air being imprisoned in clots, but this perhaps is far fetched and harmless. I think the chief danger, if not the only one, that is the clots which form in the uterus are firm and do not easily come away, and are apt to set up sapræmia, unless they are washed away by intra-uterine douches given at least twice daily. Another danger might perhaps be if the end of the nozzle were applied directly to a sinus, the solution might be pumped directly into the circulation. I can find a record of but three fatal cases from its use, two mentioned by Playfair and one witnessed by Dr. J. C. Cameron at the Rotunda, Dublin.

Noeggerath recommends tincture of iodine, 1 to 5 of water.

Dupierries 30 water, 15 tincture of iodine, potassium iodide 5. These do not seem to be greatly used, though they doubtless act as styptics.

Reynolds refers to tincture of iodine being used preferably to Churchill's, and states the advantage of iodine over the iron solution is its more stimulating character, and the lesser liability of causing an extensive thrombosis formation and a consequently increased danger of septic infection.

Penrose strongly recommends strong vinegar, which has the advantage of being always readily obtainable. He speaks highly of its hæmostatic effect. He soaks a clean handkerchief in it and introduces it by the hand into the uterine cavity, and squeezes it over the endometrium. He says the effect of the vinegar flowing over the sides of the cavity of the uterus and vagina is magical. The relaxed and flabby uterine muscle instantly responds, the organ assumes what is called its gizzard-like feel, shrinking down upon and compressing the operating hand, and in the vast majority of cases the hæmorrhage ceases instantly.

Playfair remarks that it might be worth trying before using the iron solution.

Reynolds advises a 1 to 100 hot water solution of the official acetic acid as a prompt styptic.

Creolin if added, even in the quantity of a few drops, to the hot water injections used in post-partum hæmorrhage, acts as a powerful styptic as well as a good antiseptic; or carbolic acid may be added to the hot douche about the strength of 1 to 40 or 80, and would be found to act as a hæmostatic by its stimulating contraction of the uterus.

DISINFECTANTS.

The use of disinfectants in the third stage is at present a vexed question, and the use of douching either before labor or after labor, unless for cause such as a severe leucorrhœa or one that is suspected of being infected by gonococci, is at present rather condemned than advised. In one of last numbers of the *Archives for Gynecology* are statistics very unfavorable to it. Probably the most commonly used disinfectant is corrosive sublimate.

Winkel says the use of corrosive sublimate for irrigating the uterus is to be avoided, as poisoning is liable to supervene; but if used, a 1 to 5000th corrosive sublimate solution at a temperature of about 110 to 115° F., that is, at that which is distinctly but not uncomfortably hot for the hand.

Playfair says that a solution of 1 in 2000th solution of perchloride of mercury may be used, if needed, to diminish the danger of sapræmia.

Reynolds recommends a 1 to 5000th corrosive sublimate solution at a temperature of 110 to 115° F.