paper in the *New York Medical Journal* for June 23, 1883, p. 679.

All these dangers may be, to a great extent, avoided by care as to details, by using a large injecting tube which cannot enter an open-mouthed sinus; by using water warmed to 105° ; by injecting the fluid through the tube so as to exclude air before passing this up to the os uteri; by using only a moderate degree of force in throwing the jet against the uterine walls ; and by proceeding with the whole affair gently, cautiously, slowly, and intelligently.

The tube should never be allowed to fill the os uteri completely, so as to prevent the escape of the injected fluid. Should the cervical canal be so narrow as to hug the tube closely, it should be dilated by dilators of hard rubber, by the fingers, or Barnes' bags, before the injection is practiced.

A solution of the persulphate of iron should always be at hand in case of sudden hemorrhage from displacement of a thrombus. Should this accident occur, ergot should be immediately given hypodermically, the iron solution be at once added to the antiseptic solution and allowed to pass into the uterus, and pressure be made upon the fundus so as to stimulate the contraction of uterine fibre to accomplish closure of the open sinuses in that way. Quite a number of cases of death from this plan of treatment are on record. In a very large experience with it I have met with but one. The whole number on record would, however, fall, I think, into insignificance if weighed in the balance against the many deaths which have been due to a neglect of the means, or against those lives which have been saved by it.

After all, the question as to the dangers attending a plan of treatment are not to be settled upon mere abstract reasoning. The evil which it is known to do must be weighed in one scale, and the good which it effects in another; and careful consideration must decide whether we are justified in accepting the former for the sake of the latter.

Judged in this manner, I feel very sure that intra-uterine injections for puerperal septicæmia deserve a place among the most valuable resources for the saving of life for which we are indebted to modern pathology.

The frequency of these intra-uterine injections should vary greatly with individual cases. In mild cases of septicæmia, where the temperature comes readily down after the uterus has been washed out, and rises very slowly, they need only be used once in every five hours ; in other cases they become necessary once in every three hours ; and in bad cases they are required once every hour. These injections should always be administered by a physician, should always be carried fully up to the fundus uteri, and should always be used with every regard to caution as to detail which has been already mentioned.

Many prefer the use of those syringes which allow of a steady flow of a stream of water propelled by gravitation, as is the case with the so-called fountain syringe, which is so popular among us. This is partly because greater safety is supposed to attach to these, and partly from a theory that danger attends the propulsion of a stream by intermittent jet against the uterine walls. For a number of years I shared this belief, but experience has taught me that a gentle projection of the fluid is an advantage, that by this means a more thorough cleansing is accomplished, and that with due caution no more danger attends the plan than that by the steady flow.

Some have adopted continuous irrigation of the uterine cavity, but this is, I feel perfectly certain, a delusion and a snare. It gives the appearance of great thoroughness, which it does not possess, for the reason that by this plan it is very difficult to bring the germicide fluid into full contact with the entire endometrium. For vaginal irrigation it is an excellent method, but I have seen it allow the temperature to remain high when applied to the uterine cavity, and have replaced it by the intermittent douche, used only as often as every three hours, with striking results. Nevertheless, in very severe cases I prefer to employ continuous irrigation, replacing its use every third hour by that of the intermittent current; rather than exhaust my patient by half-hour disturbances and injections, as has been by some advised.

After all that has been said on this subject, the essential fact is this: that plan is best which accomplishes most perfectly the cleansing of the parturient canal. With ordinary precautions, danger need not necessarily attach to any method.

3. The uterus having now been thoroughly cleansed, and the patient entirely quieted, attention should be turned to controlling the temperature, which in septicæmia of puerperal character runs so high and maintains itself at so exalted a range as to constitute one of the immediate factors of a fatal issue. Even if this were not the case, the patient's strength is so much exhausted by prolonged high temperature, her nerve powers so much depreciated, her blood-state so rapidly injured, and her comfort so decidedly interfered with, that these considerations alone would point to the propriety of combating hyperpyrexia. For this purpose I formerly relied upon the affusion of cold or tepid water, the patient lying upon Kibbee's cot; at present I accomplish the same result more easily and more pleasantly for the patient by the use of Chamberlain's rubber tube coil, which I here show. A mat, composed of a rubber tube rolled upon itself in a circle, covers the whole abdomen from the ensiform cartilage to the symphysis pubis ; the upper end of the tube which makes this mat is anchored by a weight in a tub of ice-water, placed about three feet above the level of the patient, and the lower end falls into a tub upon the floor. By siphon action the water of the elevated tub runs through the tube which constitutes the mat, and collects in the receptacle on the floor. By this means a temperature of 104° can very