

5. In the summer and autumn of 1823, Dr. Kellie had a number of cases in Leith and its vicinity. The first cases occurred at Inveresk, early in May; and the fifteen patients whom he delivered in succession afterwards, or sixteen in all, were affected with the disease, and all died.

6. Dr. Hamilton saw one of these cases in consultation on the 6th May.—On the 8th, he delivered a lady of her third child in Gayfield Square; she had the disease, and died on the 8th day.

7. In May and end of June of same year, Dr. H. saw two cases with the late Dr. Beilby, one of whom recovered. On the 7th July, he delivered a lady of her first child, after an easy labour. On the fourth day she was seized with the disease, was bled copiously more than once, and sunk next day.

8. Dr. M. mentioned several instances of individual pupils of the hospital having had a succession of cases in various quarters of the town; while other pupils, as extensively engaged at the same time in midwifery practice, and in the same localities, had none.

9. Dr. M. read the copy of a letter, sent in Feb. 1824 to Dr. H. by a Dr. Reid, an old pupil, in which he says: "That puerperal fever is contagious, I think I shall be able to adduce some tolerably good proofs. In 1817 I visited Ireland, and attended gratuitously a number of poor. The third woman I attended in labour was attacked with puerperal fever; and from that time not one escaped it who came under my care. After my return to London in the autumn, I was called to a labour, on which occasion I happened to be dressed in some of the clothes I had worn in Ireland; and that woman was seized with the fever, as were two others, whom I attended a few days subsequently. On a voyage to New South Wales, several weeks afterwards, in the Atlantic Ocean, a soldier's wife was taken in labour, and, being badly provided with necessaries for the occasion, I gave her some old sheets, and a piece of garment, which had been packed in one of my trunks at the time I was attending the puerperal cases in London; and she was attacked with the fever two hours after delivery. Four other women were confined on the voyage, and all had the disease."

After commenting upon the contagious nature of this fearful disease, as indicated by the preceding facts, Dr. M. stated that it was mentioned in Dr. Hamilton's lectures, that when puerperal fever prevailed in the lying-in ward of the Royal Infirmary, all the sores in the surgeon's ward, which was on the same floor, were in a very bad condition; and erysipelas followed every operation, however trifling; and that Dr. Kellie had also observed that, during his attendance on the cases occurring in his practice in 1823, there was inflammation of one or more veins of the lower extremities, accompanied in some with erysipelatous efflorescence on the surface. From which facts Dr. H. had, at one time, concluded that there was a strong connection between erysipelas and puerperal fever, though he changed this opinion in after life from not finding them always to go together.

Dr. M. next related at length the particulars of three cases which had occurred lately in his own practice, and which in several ways deserved the consideration of those engaged in obstetric practice. He delivered a patient, A., on the 8th February, at midnight; another, B., early on the morning of the 9th; and on the 10th, in the afternoon, a third, C. The infant of A. having died early on the morning of the 10th, and, it being wished to ascertain the cause of death, Dr. M. opened the body that evening, some time after having delivered C., and, much to his surprise, found the cavity of the right pleura so completely