

TREATMENT IN PUERPERAL SEPSIS.—Dr. A. B. Miller, in an article in the *Medical Review* (St. Louis, October 19th) on "Intermediate Treatment in Puerperal Sepsis," advocates his method in dealing with such cases. In consideration, he says, of the degeneration of the human race and the teaching of the obstetrical art, women are placed in the recumbent position during confinement and during convalescence. This secures imperfect drainage, and the lochia forms a pool in the vault of the vagina—a suitable culture media for germs, which, with the body warmth, forms an incubator the envy of our most modern bacteriologist. To arrest the development of the micro-organisms where infection is present or suspected, his procedure is, after securing a culture for development, using all aseptic precautions, to cleanse the vulva and vagina by means of a gauze pad and a bland irrigating fluid; an examination of uterine cavity with finger and curette for retained products of conception; the cavity then thoroughly dried with pledgets of cotton saturated in sterilized water or antiseptic solutions. After thorough cleansing, the parts should be wiped dry with sterilized cotton, carried into the uterus with dressing forceps; the vagina dried and smeared with sterilized vaseline. With the patient on her back, legs flexed, the perineum should be depressed by speculum; the anterior wall of the vagina is elevated, the cervix caught in the grip of a flat-toothed forcep sufficiently wide as not to tear the parts, and securely held until the cavity of the uterus is filled with some absorbent material—gauze, lamp-wicks, or discs of cotton. The uterus is then released and permitted to rise in the abdomen. The vagina is firmly packed with discs of sterilized cotton arranged concentrically about the cervix, exercising all the thoroughness possible, until the cul-de-sac is filled and continued until the os is reached.

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