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TEMPERATURE IN THE PUERPERAL PERIOD.*

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We are living in an age of great scientific activity and progress—hosts of workers in the laboratory and at the bedside, with microscope test-tube and instruments of precision, are testing, trying and proving. Old doctrines and beliefs venerable with the traditions and authority of ages are being rudely overthrown, old methods revised, and everything brought to the crucial test of observation and experiment; meanwhile the general professional mind is kept in a state of unrest, sometimes even of positive bewilderment. It is well, therefore, once in a while, to cry a halt and review the field, count up our gains and losses, note what is being done in other departments, see how it tallies with our own results, correlate the new knowledge with the old, and estimate its influence upon our beliefs and practice. Believing that an attempt to review the whole field of obstetrics in the short time at my disposal would be unsatisfactory as well as unprofitable, I have selected as the subject matter of this address the temperature of the puerperal period. I have chosen this subject partly because it is suggestive, and partly because general notions respecting it are often hazy if not erroneous, and the practice founded thereon is sometimes uncertain timorous and procrastinating, at other times rash and injudicious. Before

*The address in Obstetrics delivered before the Canadian Medical Association, at Toronto, 10th September, 1890.