

The next form of general infection noted is the *Pyæmic*, the result of extension along the blood vessels. This form is marked by the occurrence of marked rigors, sweating and fever. Both subjective and objective symptoms are marked as a rule.

I feel inclined to place phlegmasia alba dolens under this head, as its mildest and most attenuated form.

The last and most terrible form is the *Septicæmic* form. In this the local symptoms may be entirely absent. There is an acute intoxication of the whole organism, and the post-mortem may reveal no sign of the formation of pus, but cultures of either the streptococcus or staphylococcus, or both, may be obtained from the blood and tissues.

Bacteriologically considered, the most common infective agent is the streptococcus, then we have the mixed infection and most rarely the pure staphylococcus infection. Lately the bacilli coli communis has been noted as a cause of elevation of temperature during the puerperal period, and the theory of auto-infection from the intestinal canal is attracting considerable attention at present.

Septic infection by means of the mammae should be borne in mind, and I have separated three forms in my mind, according to their clinical symptoms.

(1.) Extension of the germs along the membrane of the galactophorous ducts leads to the condition of galactophoritis. Slight symptoms manifested, but child suffers continuous loss of weight.

(2.) Extension by lymphatics, either *superficial*, in which case the course of the inflamed glands can be seen passing over the breast in the direction of the axilla, or *deep*, in which case the deeper glands are affected and undergo inflammation and may either resolve, form an abscess, or pass into the next form, viz. :

(B.) Extension by the connective tissue resulting in parenchymatous inflammation, or true mastitis. The infective germs are the same as in infection through the genital tract.