

demonstrated in the fact that in eleven of the cases with marked rise of temperature, the examination showed the absence of infective bacteria in the lochia. Further observation of the above group of cases showed that in many instances the temperature was probably due to an auto-intoxication from the intestines as was indicated by the rapid fall of temperature after brisk purgation.

The Practical Significance of Bacteria Found in the Vagina.

WILLIAMS, WHITRIDGE J. "The practical significance of bacteria found in the vagina."—*Am. Jour. Obstet.*, Oct. 1898.

From the bacteriological examination of the vaginal secretion in ninety-two pregnant women, Dr. Williams comes to the following conclusions: That auto-infection is impossible, as he found in but two of the cases the staphylococcus epidermidis albus, and in none of them any of the usual pyogenic cocci. That the gonococcus is occasionally found in the vaginal secretion, and may extend into the uterus and tubes during the puerperal state. That it is possible, but not yet demonstrated, that in rare instances the vagina may contain bacteria, which may give rise to sapræmia and putrefactive endometritis by auto-infection. That death from puerperal infection is always due to infection from without, and usually follows the neglect of aseptic precautions by doctor or nurse.

He advises that vaginal examinations be made as infrequently as possible, and that before such, the external genitals should be cleansed and disinfected carefully, the examining hand being rendered as aseptic as for a laparotomy. He considers that vaginal douches are not necessary and are probably harmful.

D. J. Evans.