

advantage of in due time. A natural labor may become preternatural; we should, therefore, constantly during our attendance upon the parturient female, be upon the alert and fully prepared for any emergency. By passing the finger along the linea ileo-pectinea, we ascertain the relative size of the foetal head and pelvic excavation. Presentation of the foot or knee is simply a deviation of the breech presentation. Artificial irritation of the os uteri will increase uterine contraction, and is frequently resorted to; the introduction of a gum catheter into a lazy uterus will increase its contraction. A physician in New York reports a number of cases of rigid os as having yielded readily to the injection of atropine into the substance of the womb. As a last resort, in case of rigidity of the os, we would force dilation by introducing one finger after another until sufficient dilatation was produced.

With reference to puerperal convalescence, Dr. Goodell writes as follows: "See to it that the patient has a good getting up. Lactation should be encouraged, and from the first day the diet should be generous." Premature exertion should not be allowed. On the other hand, the recumbent posture should not be too rigidly enforced, as it may, in some instances, retard the passage of clots and lochial discharge and induce local congestions of the uterus. The patient, after confinement, should be allowed ordinarily to sit up whenever she feels sufficiently strong and well enough to do so. The obstetric binder, when worn too long, weakens the retentive power of the abdomen and causes the uterus to press unduly upon the vena cava and the pelvic veins, whereby the uterine circulation is interfered with and the process of involution interrupted. Interruption of this physiological process leads to too long a continuance of the lochial discharge.

Unhealed lacerations of the cervix uteri are also a cause of protracted lochial discharge. Astringent vaginal injections and the administration of iron, ergot and nux vomica, with a liberal use of wine, beer, etc., is advised in this condition. A vaginal wash containing carbolic acid is recommended after abortions and labor, because of its tendency to prevent septic disease. With reference to the communication of septic or puerperal disease of a specific or contagious character by a medical attendant during or after labor, we must state that if such disease is communicated by a physician, it would be developed within three days after the termination of labor, from the fact that the peculiar poison which produces the specific or contagious form of puerperal disease will have been absorbed before the raw surfaces are granulating. The granulating process occurs by the third day after labor, after which time the absorption of septic material does not take place. Therefore, puerperal disease, occurring twenty

days after confinement, could not be attributed to infection or contagion communicated by the medical attendant who had delivered the patient twenty days prior to the inception of puerperal disease.

Prof. Barker, of New York, states that "septic absorption must arise from traumatic lesions, which lesions are granulating by the third day, after which septic absorption cannot take place. Should absorption take place at the time of delivery, the effects of the poison will be developed by the third day." It is therefore impossible for a female, twenty days after birth of her child, to be stricken down with puerperal or septic disease arising out of the attendance of a physician twenty days before the inception of her disease.—*St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal.*

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EDITOR:

FRANCIS W. CAMPBELL, M.A., M.D., L.R.C.P., LOND.

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THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The position of an Attending Physician to the Montreal General Hospital has, so far as our memory enables us to speak authoritatively, always been considered one of honor. As a consequence it has been much sought after, but as vacancy succeeded vacancy, and was filled, it has long been noticeable that there remained, not alone among the defeated candidates, but among a very large number of the profession, a sense of injury, which was unaccountable, upon the plea of simple defeat and sympathy with defeated candidates. Why this state of things? Simply because the unsuccessful candidates have felt that they never have had an honest chance for success, and this feeling finds an echo among the profession in the city of Montreal. We believe that this feeling is a just one, and that it is high time the Governors of the Institution took the matter up and adopted some means