

### **The Frequency and Mortality of Abnormal Pelves.**

DAVIS, EDWARD P. "The Frequency and Mortality of Abnormal Pelves." *Amer. Obstet. Jour.*, Jan., 1900.

Davis, after an examination of 1224 patients who were of all races inhabiting the United States (except the Chinese and Indian), who were examined by pelvimetry and palpation both external and internal, considers himself justified in formulating the following conclusions:—

(1) Among child-bearing women of the United States of the white and negro races, 25 per cent. have pelves smaller than the average and 7 per cent. have pelves larger than the average.

(2) Four-fifths of the patients having abnormal pelves delivered themselves spontaneously. The operations most suitable for well marked pelvic contractions and most successful for mother and child are the induction of premature labour, symphysiotomy, and Cæsarean section when the mother is uninfected and the child in good condition, and embryotomy when the mother is infected and in bad condition and when the child is dead or likely soon to die.

(3) The general mortality rate and septic mortality rate of all classes of labour and of labour in abnormal pelves compare favourably with the results obtained by modern medicine and surgery when obstetric practice is conducted in accordance with the modern scientific knowledge of the subject.

### **Acute Puerperal Sepsis.**

VINEBERG, HIRAN, N. "The Surgical Treatment of Acute Puerperal Sepsis with Special Reference to Hysterectomy." *Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sciences*, Feb., 1900.

Dr. Vineberg in this paper which was read before the American Gynæcological Society in May, 1899, replies to those who have rather severely criticized his work in connection with the surgical treatment of puerperal sepsis, and takes the opportunity to more clearly define his views upon the subject.

The objection most strongly urged against removal of the uterus in cases of puerperal sepsis is that in acute cases, *i.e.*, cases which succumb in spite of any treatment between the fifth and tenth days, operation is of no value as the patients die whether they are operated on or not; while in chronic cases no such operation is indicated, as they usually get better of themselves.

Vineberg defines "acute" puerperal sepsis as an infection which takes place either shortly before, during, or immediately after labour, which manifests itself by symptoms during the first week of the puerperium