

Dr. Trenholme thought the practice a reasonable one he had had no experience with the remedy; indeed, he was one of those fortunate ones who have never had a case of puerperal septicæmia in private practice.

Dr. Gardner had used iodoform in lacerations of the vulva and perineum, and with advantage. The tenacity with which it adheres to raw surfaces, and even remains after injections, is a point in its favor. He had used it also in chronic endometritis, and, although it had diminished the pain, no permanent good resulted. He had been in the habit for some time of rendering sponge tents antiseptic with iodoform.

Dr. George Ross referred to diphtheria of the vagina after delivery, and remarked upon its insidious onset in a case which he had treated. He thought Dr. Alloway's suggestion very valuable, and could speak of the benefit he had seen follow in one extremely severe case of puerperal septicæmia. The fetor was removed, and a decided improvement manifested within forty-eight hours. He did not think there was any danger of toxic effects in the doses mentioned.

Dr. Cameron spoke of the great influence of iodoform in subduing pain, but believed the special advantages in this form of treatment were the constant presence of the antiseptic in the uterine cavity and the certainty that all parts would be subjected to its action. In the cases reported some of the benefit might reasonably be attributed to the washings, which should not be neglected in any case.

Dr. Armstrong said he unfortunately had had a good deal of experience in these conditions, the treatment of which must in a great measure depend on our theory of their production. In the grouping together of actual facts, as observed by him, he had found them to harmonize very considerably with the division adopted by Matthews Duncan, namely into cases of *simple sapræmia* and *true septicæmia*. In the former there is absorption of putrid ichor by the lymphatics, or its passage into the circulation through the uterine sinuses; the poison does not exist in the blood, much less grow and multiply in it, while in true septicæmia the poison is a germ which lives, grows and multiplies in the blood (the discharge in these cases may indeed be not fetid at all). In the treatment of simple sapræmia, and Dr. Armstrong took this to be the nature of the favorable cases described by Dr. Alloway, the

object is to remove the cause as thoroughly as possible, and this can be accomplished by careful cleansing and disinfection of the parts by carbolic acid or other disinfectant; and it would seem that iodoform possesses advantages over carbolic acid for this purpose, being less troublesome and saving much valuable time to the practitioner, but as to its unflinching efficacy in cases of true septicæmia Dr. Armstrong thought the reader of the paper was inclined very much to over-estimate it.

Dr. F. W. Campbell said he thought the Society indebted to Dr. Alloway for the important cases which he had brought before them. The high mortality from puerperal septicæmia under existing methods of treatment would, in his opinion, warrant a trial of the method suggested by Dr. Alloway, which seemed to have been singularly successful. He thought there was a certain class of cases where it would be well to anticipate, as it were, a condition of septicæmia, as it often supervened. He alluded to cases where there was extensive adhesion of the placenta, and where its removal was attended with great difficulty. In such cases, he thought the introductions of iodoform would be found very useful, not alone in preventing putrefactive changes, but in healing torn surfaces.

Dr. Alloway stated that he had been induced to lay his limited experience before the Society, in the hope that other members would test the practice. For his own part, he felt much more confidence now in the treatment of these cases. In illustration of the antiseptic powers of iodoform, he showed two bottles of meat infusion, which had been allowed to decompose; into one he had put a little iodoform and the decomposition had been checked, the putrid odor was removed, and the solution rendered as was very apparent, much clearer by the death and subsidence of the bacteria.

In reply to Dr. Armstrong he would say that the whole subject of septicæmia has been, until quite recently, in well-nigh hopeless confusion. It was, however, now almost universally acknowledged that septicæmia is due to the presence in the blood and tissues of a virus, which virus is *not* a germ or number of germs, but is a product generated by micro-organisms, by certain vital processes and under certain conditions of their surrounding media. These organisms do not arise spontaneously in the blood, but are introduced from without, and are incapable of multiplying in