

labor and the lying-in, and that this septicaemia is to be prevented by the prevention of this infection. In addition to this, the principal group, there remains a small fraction of cases in which the infection, although introduced from without originally, has remained almost dormant within the body until labor has provided the opportunity for its extension. The theory of a specific epidemic disease has vanished.

The next address was delivered in 1893 at Newcastle-on-Tyne by our revered colleague, Dr. Cullingworth, who is occupying his leisure from active hospital work by editing the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the British Empire*. His address will be found in the second volume of the *British Medical Journal* for 1895, p. 353. The subject was Pelvic Peritonitis in the Female, and the Pathological Importance of the Fallopian Tubes in connection therewith. The address remains as a landmark in our knowledge of the pathology of salpingitis; it led to the general appreciation by British gynaecologists of the true pathology of perimetritis, as well as to advances in abdominal surgery in the treatment of these cases.

In 1900 an address was given at Ipswich, where I had the honor to be President of the Obstetric Section, by our friend, Dr. W. J. Smyly, of Dublin, whose work at the Rotunda Hospital is well known to you all, and who has since received the well-deserved honor of knighthood. His address will be found in the *British Medical Journal*, vol. ii., p. 377, of that year. The subject was Maternal Mortality in Childbed. Its chief importance as a landmark is in its indication of the simplification of antiseptic measures for the protection of parturient women, as for instance the abolition of the douche as a routine practice, and in its insistence on the substitution as far as possible of external or abdominal for internal or vaginal examinations during labor. Dr. Smyly does full justice to the pioneers in the fight with puerperal fever, but, like Dr. Kidd, and indeed other writers until quite recently, he does not mention the astounding evidence collected by Oliver Wendell Holmes—whose essay on the contagiousness of puerperal fever was placed in my hands by a non-medical friend in my first year as a medical student, and has ever since remained in my memory. The profession is indebted to Dr. Cullingworth for having reminded them of the great service which Oliver Wendell Holmes rendered, though with so little immediate fruit.

At the meeting at Manchester in 1902, Professor Sir William Japp Sinclair discussed Carcinoma in Women, chiefly in its clinical aspects. This is reported in the *British Medical Journal*, vol. ii., p. 321, of that year. In this address he expressed his firm conviction that the secret of cancer will be discovered (if ever it is) by the study of cancer of the uterus, although his reasons for this view are not very clear. He is less pessimistic with regard to the results