

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

Report of Cases of Puerperal Fever occurring at the New-York Alms-House. By ALEXANDER F. VACHÉ, M. D., Resident Physician.

In giving a history of the puerperal fever, in the Alms-house establishments at Bellevue and Blackwell's Island, I shall not attempt any speculations on the cause, character, or nature of the disease; but confine myself to a detail of the symptoms, treatment, termination, and post-mortem appearances, when fatal, of the several cases, leaving it to others to draw whatever inferences and conclusions the facts may seem to justify. It may not be uninteresting, however, to state that the disease made its appearance in the Alms-house on the 12th January, 1840, and was quickly followed by two more cases, apparently so malignant, that it was immediately determined to vacate the room, with a view to its purification. The inmates were accordingly removed, and the apartment was whitewashed, ventilated, and scrubbed; the bedsteads were cleansed, new beds and bedding introduced, and at the expiration of about a week, it was considered sufficiently disinfected to return to it in safety. But the disease immediately re-appeared, equally as violent and irremediable as before, and it was concluded most judicious to abandon the building. As promptly as it could be accomplished, another, some distance from the Alms-house, and appropriated for a nursery, was put in the most perfect order: the bedsteads were cleansed and painted; new beds and bedding were furnished; the physician and nurse were changed; the pregnant women were directed to cleanse their persons by bathing; new clothes, even shoes, were given to them, immediately previous to trans-

ferring them to their new habitation, and all intercourse arrested with the inmates of the surrounding premises. Notwithstanding these precautions, the first woman confined, and subsequently four others in succession out of five labours, were attacked with the disease, and in every case it was fatal. As a further effort in the cause of human life, and as the only rational means of arresting this terrible scourge, was the total abandonment of the lying-in establishment at Bellevue.* Apartments in the "middle house" of the Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island were appropriated to that use. The same care was observed in relation to the *enciente* as heretofore observed, and every other means resorted to that promised the least chance of success. For a time, the change of air, free ventilation, and a more generous diet, seemed to have accomplished the object; several were delivered, convalesced, recovered, and were discharged, without an untoward symptom; but, as subsequently ascertained, the disease was merely suspended, not eradicated; for it here appeared with equal, if not redoubled fury, attacking almost every woman confined, and setting at defiance every effort for their recovery. It there still continues, and the result shall be hereafter reported to the profession.

The number of women confined in the institution from the appearance of the disease to the present time were, in the Alms-house, eighteen, nine of whom were attacked with the fever, seven died, and two recovered; in the nursery, six, five of whom had the fever, and five died; in the "Black Alms-house," twelve, four of whom had the fever, and four died; and on Blackwell's Island, twenty-three, six of whom had the fever, three died, and three are yet living. Besides these, there were several others delivered in various rooms of the establishment, all of whom escaped.

The treatment, it will be observed, has been diversified: resisting at the commencement that usually adopted in puerperal peritonitis, the extreme malignity and fatality of the type, justified the trial of the various remedies alleged to have been curative by the most distinguished accoucheurs in the world. As yet, they have been in a great measure unsuccessful: perhaps it

* The disease had also appeared in another building, known as the "Black Alms-house," appropriated to people of colour.

may be explained by the opinion of Tenon, "that there are two species of puerperal fever—one simple and curative, the other complicated and rebellious, which it is impossible to relieve."

It gives me great pleasure to express my obligations to the estimable and talented assistant physicians of the institution, Drs. Davenport, Osborn, McClelland, and Cock, for the fidelity and zeal with which they performed their arduous duties, and for their benevolence and attention to the unfortunate victims of this appalling disease. To them I am also indebted for the history of the cases, from their very accurate notes.

Case I.—Attacked on the fifth day after delivery. Treatment, C. C. to abdomen; opiates. Death on the third day. Peritonitis with effusion.

CATHERINE McCARTHY, aged 24 years, was delivered of her third child in the lying-in ward of the Alms-house on the evening of the 13th of January. About 9 P. M., January 17th, she was seized with a chill; an hour after found her breathing with a laborious catching respiration, as if a full inspiration gave excessive pain, which she referred to the point of the sternum. The abdomen was but little sensible to pressure; the pulse was quick and small. A dozen cups over the seat of pain afforded immediate relief. In half an hour the symptoms returned with the same violence as before; but the pain was now referred to the right hypochondriac region. The cups were repeated, and again gave temporary relief; antispasmodic medicines were given her.

Jan. 18th. Has passed a restless night; pain and difficulty of breathing the same as last evening; erythematous patches on various parts of the body, particularly between the fingers; this day's treatment not recollected.

Jan. 19th, 9 A. M. Pulse 120, small and frequent; tongue coated with a hard, dry, brown crust in the centre, white on the sides, and deep red at the edges; skin cold and moist; countenance anxious; patient constantly vomiting a dark green fluid; slight pain on pressure in the umbilical region; milk suppressed; lochiæ continued. Ordered one grain of opium with ten of Dover's powder every three hours, and hop fomentations to the abdomen.

11 A. M. Pulse smaller and more feeble; patient delirious, and still vomiting. Stimulants were freely given. She died at 5 P. M. having lived 44 hours from the supervention of the chill.

Post-mortem examination. The peritoneal cavity contained about a pint of sero-purulent fluid, with depositions of lymph in various parts, particularly between the folds of the intestines. The whole peritoneum was injected, particularly that covering the intestines.

The internal lining of the uterus was covered with a light red secretion, with an occasional dark patch.

The mucous lining of the stomach and intestines was natural. The liver

was injected and softened. The gall-bladder was full, and its internal coat highly injected. All the thoracic viscera were natural.

Case II.—Attacked on the 3d day after delivery. Treatment V. S. calomel, opium. Death on 3d day. Peritonitis with effusion; inflammation of mucous membrane of stomach.*

MARGARET MCGILL, aged 28, a healthy, well-formed Irish woman, was delivered of her 7th child in the lying-in ward of the Alms-house, after an easy labour of two hours' duration, on the evening of the 27th of January.

Twenty-four hours after, she experienced a slight chill and complained of wandering pains in the abdomen and back. These passed away after the exhibition of a Dover's powder; and on their recurrence the next evening, a similar prescription gave her a comfortable night. They returned on the morning of the 30th, and increased in severity until noon. She then had constant pain in the abdomen, particularly over the uterus, increased by pressure, with paroxysmal exacerbations occurring every fifteen or twenty minutes. The abdomen was tumid, the pulse exceedingly quick and small in volume, about 140. The tongue was coated with a thick white fur in the centre, but red and moist at the edges. Erythematous patches were seen on various parts of the body, one as large as the palm of the hand, situated just above the right wrist; another occupied the bridge of the nose. She was exceedingly restless. V. S. ad. ℥xvj; Magnes. Sulp. ℥ss. Calc. Magnes. ʒi.

3 P. M. Pulse slower and more full; has been vomiting a green bilious fluid. The pain in the abdomen continuing, two dozen leeches were applied, followed by poultices.

6 P. M. Pulse softer; feels much relieved. Ten grs. of calomel with two of opium were ordered at this time, and ten grs. of calomel with one of opium every two hours subsequently.

Jan. 31st, A. M. The pulse is more rapid, soft, and fluttering; tongue thickly coated with yellow fur; skin moist. The patient has but little pain or tenderness in the abdomen, but has passed a restless and uncomfortable night, and has vomited some gallons of the green fluid already alluded to. The symptoms were thought to be aggravated by the calomel and opium, and were discontinued after the administration of the second powder. At 1 P. M., however, that treatment was resumed, and 5 grs. of calomel with $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of opium were ordered every four hours, with lotions of the oil of turpentine to the abdomen.

12 M. Pulse 132, soft and feeble; restlessness has been increasing since noon; complains of a diffused pain over the abdomen, breast, back, and right fore-arm.

Feb. 1st, 3 A. M. The pulse has fallen to 60, and is exceedingly feeble; the extremities are cold; the vomiting has remained unchecked. Alcoholic stimulants were freely given; but the patient died shortly after four o'clock, in the full possession of her reason, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ days after the commencement of the attack.

The lochiæ were free throughout.

* Another fatal case occurred at this period, of which no record was kept.

The secretion of milk took place on the 3d day after labour, and disappeared in twenty-four hours.

Post-mortem examination. About a pint of sero-purulent fluid was found in the abdomen. The parietal peritoneum was highly injected in patches; the visceral to a less extent. The stomach contained a small quantity of the green fluid spoken of; its cardiac extremity was much inflamed. The upper part of the right lobe of the liver, and the spleen, were softened. The uterus was of natural size and appearance; the lungs and heart were also natural.

Case III.—Attacked on the second day after delivery. Treatment, leeches, fomentations, Dover's Powder. Cure.

SARAH REED was delivered after a short and easy labour, on the 3d of February, of her fourth child, in the Alms-house. She is 30 years old; of regular habits, and of good constitution. The after pains, which lasted until the night of the 4th, left a soreness which has continued more or less to the present time, (February 5th,) wandering every where over the abdomen and back. The pulse is about 130 hard, but not voluminous; the tongue is slightly coated with white fur; the skin bathed in perspiration. The lochiæ were suspended last evening; the milk is not secreted. She now complains of much tenderness on pressure of the abdomen. C.C. xii. to abdomen.

Feb. 6th. The pain in the abdomen has mostly moved to the back and right side. She was cupped and 10 leeches applied, with warm fomentations. The cups, owing to the flabby state of the abdomen, drew very little blood.

7th. Pulse 120, hard and forcible; was relieved and slept last night; there is still some tenderness over the abdomen. Salts and magnesia, — warm fomentations.

9th. Pulse 110; anxiety increased; tenderness on pressure greater; 12 leeches applied.

12th. Pulse 96; tongue red at edges, but little coated; skin moist; slight soreness remaining over the uterus. About this time, the whole surface of the body was covered with a miliary eruption. Under the use of Dover's powder when pain or excitement existed, the patient slowly recovered.

The lochiæ which ceased the day after her confinement, returned on the 11th. The milk was slightly secreted the 2nd day, and disappeared the same day. Three days after this it returned, but for a few days only.

Case IV.—Attacked the third day after delivery. Treatment V. S. leeches, fomentations, Dover's powder, &c. Apparent convalescence, interrupted by mortification of the cheek, diarrhæa, &c. Death on the 32d day. Numerous adhesions of the pelvic viscera; purulent deposition, &c. in the sub-peritoneal cellular tissue; obliteration of the iliac vein, &c.

ANNA DHAL was delivered in the Alms-house of twins, Feb. 7th, at 11 P. M. after a somewhat severe labour of 12 hours. She is 18 years of age, of san-

guine temperament and full form; her habits are good, and her appearance indicates the highest degree of health. In visiting the ward at 10 A. M. Feb-9th, found her cheerful and comfortable.

4 P. M. An hour and a half since, 51 hours after delivery, she had a severe chill lasting 15 minutes. Pulse about 150, full and hard; tongue clean and glossy; the patient is restless and much excited, and there is great tenderness on pressing the abdomen. V. S. ζ xvj; salts ζ j, magnes. ζ j; and chamomile fomentations to the abdomen.

Half-past 7 P. M. Pulse 132, soft and compressible; less restlessness; considerable pain still in the abdomen. Directed xxv leeches, followed by poultices.

10th. 9 A. M. Pulse 128, full and hard; pain in the abdomen, immediately relieved by the application of the leeches; patient uneasy most of the night, but slept an hour or two towards morning; has had 5 or 6 evacuations from the bowels. Repeat V. S. ad ζ xvj.; Two hours after blisters to the calves of the legs.

Half past 10 P. M. Pulse 124, full and bounding; restlessness; pain in the back and over the uterus. V. S. ζ vj, which produced syncope; an hour after xxj. leeches were applied to the abdomen.

11th. Half-past 2 A. M. Pulse 106, softer and more compressible. Patient easier.

5 P. M. Pulse 132, full, but compressible and irritable; complains again of pain in the back and abdomen; two natural evacuations from the bowels to-day. Pulv. Doveri, gr. xv.

12th. Half-past 1 A. M. She experienced relief soon after the administration of the opiate, and obtained some sleep, but she is again restless, and the pain in the abdomen and back has returned. \mathcal{R} pulv. Dov. gr. xii.

P. M. Pulse 130, full, but more irritable, giving a wiry sensation when lightly touched; slight dry cough; bowels not moved to-day. 5 grs. of Dover's powder every four hours; 15 grs. of calomel, immediately.

13th. 9 A. M. Pulse 120; tongue thickly coated with a white fur, but red at the edges; skin cool; slept uneasily a few hours; 5 or 6 evacuations from the bowels.

Half-past 5 P. M. Pulse 130, full, bounding and intermittent; complains of pain in the right fore arm, and back of the head, and less of the abdomen. 5 grs. of Dover's powder, with 2 grains of ipecac every third hour.

15th. 9 A. M. Pulse 116, soft and less voluminous; tongue cleaning; constant diarrhoea.

16th. 9 P. M. Pulse 130; tongue dry in the centre; more restless and complaining. Discontinued the powders, and ordered gr. xv. of Dover's powder.

17th. Half-past 3 P. M. Pulse irritable, quick and bounding; tongue covered in the centre with a dry black crust; stomach irritable; has just vomited a small quantity of green fluid. Calomel gr. x.

Half-past 10 P. M. The vomiting continues slightly, the calomel was repeated in two hours, and this seemed to check it. She seems worse; is restless;

pulse irritable and irregular ; tongue presents a dry scorched appearance. x grs. of Dover's powder with grs. jss. of opium given.

18th. 9 A. M. Pulse 120, tongue moister ; patient looks better ; 2 grs. of ipecac, with 5 grs. of Dover's powder every three hours ; and x grs. of Dover's powder with 1½ grs. of opium at night.

From this time the patient for a while gradually but slowly improved. The tongue cleaned, but the pulse remained constantly irritable and much accelerated. The diarrhœa which was occasionally present, ceased about the 25th. The Dover's powder with ipecac, was used for a day or two only, but the opiates at night were continued.

About the 25th, the gums became sore, and an abscess formed in the left cheek, which was opened from the inside. This took on a sloughing character, and continued to extend in spite of the usual remedies, yeast poultices, sumach gargles, &c., till it had passed entirely through the cheek, destroying it to the size of a dollar. For a week previous to death, her hearing was impaired, her sleep disturbed, and subsultus tendinum took place ; the pulse was 135, irritable but full. A few days before death, diarrhœa set in. Tonics were given, but the patient died March 13th—32 days after the attack.

The lochiæ were natural and abundant throughout. The milk was slightly secreted the day after her attack ; it ceased the same day, reappeared on some amendment of the symptoms taking place, but continued for a few days only.

Post-mortem Examination 20 hours after death.—Externally, and on examining the cavity of the mouth, a circular slough was seen on the left cheek about two and a half inches in diameter, situated about half an inch from the angle of the mouth ; this extended through the entire cheek, and though the line of demarcation had formed, the slough had not yet separated. The cellular and other tissues except the dermoid, over the whole cheek, and extending high up the temporal fossa, were infiltrated with pus, and in a sloughing condition. The left half of the soft palate was also involved in the disease, and sloughing. The lower jaw-bone of that side, was denuded on its anterior and posterior surfaces, from the articulation to within an inch of the symphysis ; the alveoli were carious, and pus was seen in the cancellæ of the bone. The tongue was swollen, and on the left side, slightly ulcerated. On the abdomen some of the old leech bites still showed black ecchymoses, in the centres of which were found small quantities of dirty fœtid pus tinged with blood.

Head.—The membranes on the right side of the head were highly injected, and about ʒ ij of serum was left in the skull on removing the brain.

Chest.—The heart was considerably enlarged, the vessels here as generally throughout the body, both veins and arteries, were perfectly natural. The posterior and inferior part of both lungs were somewhat consolidated, but not absolutely hepatized. The trachea and bronchi were somewhat injected and contained much mucus. The bronchial glands were enlarged, and one of them contained a deposit like a grain of sand.

Abdomen.—The peritoneum both of the parieties and of the intestines, was generally healthy ; slight vascularity was however observed in one or two places, as on the commencement of the descending colon, at its sigmoid flexure,

and on the peritoneum of the pelvis. At the sigmoid flexure of the colon, one or two bands of lymph passed across the peritoneum. The vermiform process, the right ovary, fallopian tube, and right border of the uterus, were firmly united to each other, and to the peritoneum on the right edge of the upper strait of the pelvis, over the track of the femoral vessels, by vascular adhesions; and the uterus was considerably drawn to the right side. The uterus was attached posteriorly to the sacrum by adhesions of a dark lead colour. Anteriorly, the peritoneum was separated from the walls of the abdomen by an abscess, four inches in diameter, containing pus, and in cutting up the adhesions on the right side, one or two drachms of pus was discharged from a kind of cyst. On further examination, the whole sub-peritoneal cellular tissue of the pelvis extending to within a half an inch of the kidney, and to a considerable extent the adipose tissue had degenerated into a singular kind of shreddy matter, resembling lint soaked in pus;* layers of it could be seen lying in contact with and traversing the fatty tissue; which when drawn out by the forceps left winding sinuses.

The quantity of this morbid product could not have been less in weight than one and a half pounds. The cavity of the pelvis contained one or two drachms of clear yellowish serum.

Stomach and Intestines.—The stomach contained a dark coloured fluid. On the cardiac half a large meshwork of dark brown lines was noticed under the mucous membrane, which was however healthy, as also the other portions. The mucous membrane of the intestines was pale and bloodless; these organs contained a considerable quantity of dirty green fluid.

Uterus and Appendages.—The uterus was of a pale lead colour; when cut into, the middle and inner portions of the walls, were of a grayish tint, dotted with dark points becoming more numerous internally. The neck was ecchymosed. The cavity at the fundus was covered by a dark ash-coloured flocculent matter, firmly adhering to the organ. In the centre of this was a mass half an inch or more in diameter, resembling, in appearance only, softened tubercles, dipping into the substance of the organ by numerous roots. The body of the uterus was covered by a thick glairy mucus, coloured red, easily scraped off; it then presented an uneven whitish secretion resembling lymph, firmly adherent to the organ, under which when scraped off, the mouths of numerous vessels could be seen. The neck was also covered by a glairy mucus, nearly colourless. In the vessels of the uterus, with the exception of some solid clots moulded to them, nothing abnormal could be discovered on close examination.

Under the peritoneal covering on every side were numerous deposits of the purulent matter already described, some softer, some dry; also throughout the cellular tissue of the broad ligaments, ovaries, and neck of the uterus.

The right fallopian tube was enlarged and sacculated, and filled with a thick creamy pus in its outer $\frac{3}{4}$ s.

The left fallopian tube contained a few drops of pus, and the uterine orifice was plugged up by a clot of fibrin. The right ovary was enlarged and pale.

* Might not this appearance have been caused by *sphacelation* of the sub-peritoneum cellular tissue? EDITOR.

The left was larger than the right, vascular—and had a deposit of lymph in its substance as large as a bean.

In the *left internal iliac vein* was found a firm clot filling the entire vessel so as to stop the circulation in it, projecting into the common iliac of the same side and extending downward through the gluteal, ischiatic, and obturator, branches, as far as they could be followed from within. This plug could be dissected in cellular layers, and at several points near the centre of the cylinder were small collections of pus. The ramifications of this clot did not enter at any point the vessels of the uterus. The other organs were examined, but nothing worthy of note discovered.

Case V.—Attacked the 3d day after delivery. Treatment V. S. fomentations, purgatives, Dover's powder. Death in 33 hours. Peritonitis, especially on the small intestines and uterus; acute inflammation of mucous membrane of stomach and small intestines.

ANN COYLE, aged about 25, was delivered in the Alms-house of her 3d child, at 5 P. M., Feb. 13th, after a severe labour of 10 hours.

Feb. 15th, 2 A. M., 33 hours after delivery. The patient had experienced a slight shivering in the early part of the evening.

Found her very restless, lying on her back in preference to either side, which gave much pain; the pulse is 120, small, hard, and irritable; the tongue has a dry, brown strip through the centre. The abdomen is tense and tympanitic, and she complains of severe and constant pain in it, especially over the uterus, aggravated by pressure, and appears complicated by after-pains, followed by a discharge of clots from the vagina, at intervals of about 15 or 20 minutes. She had taken a purgative in the afternoon, which has not yet operated. Large injection of castor oil and oil of turpentine; chamomile fomentations; soon after, V. S. ξ xii.

8 P. M. Pulse 142. Has not the least tenderness over the abdomen; is in good spirits, and will not acknowledge pain, or that any thing is the matter with her. She took gr. xii. of Dover's powder. Soon after this she became restless and delirious, and remained so until within an hour or two of death.

11½ P. M. The pulse is fluttering, small, and rapid. Laudanum \mathfrak{z} i in a pint of porter was ordered, about half of which only could she be induced to swallow. It had no effect on the pulse; and as she continued to sink, alcoholic stimulants were freely given. She died at 3 A. M., (16th,) about 33 hours after the attack.

Post-mortem examination. About a pint of straw-coloured serum was found in the abdominal cavity. The parietal peritoneum was somewhat injected; the peritoneal coat of the small intestines highly inflamed; and that of the large intestines in a less degree. The mucous lining of the stomach was slightly inflamed at its smaller curvature; near the cardiac orifice, at its greater curvature, was seen a large and intensely inflamed patch, interspersed with very small black gangrenous ulcers. The stomach contained about ξ iv of fluid

resembling the grounds of chocolate. The mucous coat of the small intestines was much softened and inflamed; that of the large slightly so. The large intestines were distended by flatus; the small intestines contained a large quantity of a dark brown, thick, turbid fluid. The uterus was of natural size. Its peritoneal coat was highly injected; its interior appeared natural, with the exception of its mouth and neck, which were of a blackened colour.

The iliac veins were not inflamed.

The liver was slightly softened in its greater lobe.

Case VI.—Attacked on the 19th day. Treatment, V. S., leeches, fomentations, turpentine injections, calomel and opium. Cure.

MARY ANN FLYNN, born in Ireland, æt. 18 years, was delivered of her first child after an easy labour, on the 13th Feb. in the Alms-house. With the exception of a profuse lochial discharge, for the last fortnight, which ceased almost entirely a day or two since, after the administration of some saline purgatives, she remained well till 4 P. M. yesterday, (19 days after delivery,) when she was suddenly seized with severe pain in the abdomen and back. This continued to increase till 4 A. M., March 4th, when a distinct chill occurred; pulse 120, small and feeble; complains of very severe pain in the abdomen and back, not materially affected by pressure; tongue natural; abdomen flaccid; vomited some fluid, which was not observed, just before she was seen; nursed her child as usual last night, but now the secretion of milk has entirely ceased. The bowels were not moved yesterday. She was ordered ℥ii of castor oil with ℥i of oil of turpentine in an enema, which brought away a considerable collection of scybalæ. In half an hour, having experienced no relief, she was bled ℥iv; and xxvij leeches applied, followed by bran fomentations, and shortly after, ℥i of calomel with gr.ii of opium were given. The pulse did not appear to be affected by the loss of blood.

9 A. M. Pulse 122, still small and compressible; the tongue has a dry bright-red streak through the centre; there is great thirst. The abdomen is tympanitic; there has been considerable irritability of the stomach since the chill; she vomited soon after the administration of the powder, and once or twice the water taken into the stomach, when thrown off was stained with blood. Another enema of oil and turpentine was directed; x grs. of calomel with one of opium were given now, (soon after taking which, however, she vomited,) and 5 grs. of calomel with one of opium directed every three hours subsequently.

8 P. M. About noon sinapisms were applied to the breast and blisters to the thighs. She is now easy and comfortable, has no pain in the abdomen except on taking a deep inspiration, or on motion: the pulse is 84; the milk has returned to the left breast. Continue powders.

Feb. 5th, 4 A. M. Pulse 86; tongue slightly coated with a dark-green fur, red at its edges: the skin is cool; she lies on her back, and is groaning from excessive pain at the lower part of the abdomen, which is increased by pressure.

She has also severe pain in the small of her back, and headache. Continue powders. At 5 P. M. 1 gr. of opium additional was given.

7 P. M. Pulse 116, small; skin hot; slight hiccough; mouth sore; no pain in the abdomen, some in the back; less thirst; no milk yet in the right breast; bowels not open to-day. A 1 gr. pill of opium was ordered, and a sinapism to the right breast. At 9 o'clock she vomited some light-green fluid. At 11 the powders of calomel and opium were discontinued, and she was directed 5 grs. of Dover's powders every three hours.

Feb. 6th, M. Pulse 106, soft and natural; tongue thickly coated with a deep-green fur, but red at the edges; the skin is moist; there is milk in both breasts; she is unable to pass her water.

7½ P. M. During the afternoon the pulse was much accelerated, and she was attacked by violent cramps in the thighs and legs, which were relieved by mustard pediluvia. She has now some headache; the skin is cool and moist. The bowels being costive, xv grs. each of calomel and rhubarb were directed.

Feb. 7th, 9 A. M. Pulse 110; perspiring freely; has had headache all night; has pain in the hips, none elsewhere; the abdomen is flaccid; has a sense of suffocation on taking a full inspiration, from pain in the left side; the respiration is 32, abdominal and easy; she complains of occasional ringing in her ears, and of her feet and legs feeling cold. There is now no lochial discharge; she now passes her urine. The bowels not yet being opened, an injection of oil, &c., was ordered.

Feb. 8th. No evacuation having taken place yesterday afternoon, ʒiiss of oil, followed by an *enema*, was directed, which operated once pretty freely. Another dose of oil was ordered.

The pulse is 114, small; the skin is moist; there is some little pain in the lumbar region and head only. The Dover's powder was discontinued, and small doses of seidlitz powders given every two or three hours. Her nights are restless. Directed grs. x of Dover's powder with one of opium, at bed-time.

She was severely salivated, but she slowly but gradually recovered, under the use of porter, generous diet, &c. She has remained in the Hospital till the present time; her health has been very delicate, and she has been much subjected to menorrhagia; but her health is now permanently re-established.

Case VII. — Attacked on the second day after delivery. — Treatment, V. S. followed by a full opiate; leeches, calomel and opium. Death on the fourth day. Congestion of brain; peritonitis with sero-purulent effusion; deposition of pus in the sub-peritoneal cellular tissue of the pelvis; inflammation of mucous membrane of stomach and of uterus.

MARY McDEVITT, aged 28, was delivered in the Alms-house of her fourth child, after a labour of six or eight hours, at 9 P. M. Feb. 17th. She was a woman of nervous temperament, and of delicate health, and at the latter stage of labour

fell into a series of fainting fits, which terminated with the expulsion of the child.

Feb. 19th. 1 A. M., 28 hours after delivery, found her in an exceedingly severe rigor, which she described as coming upon her with great rapidity, and which lasted about half an hour. An intense headache, an affection to which she is much disposed, accompanied it, and she also complained of pain passing down the thighs; but of none in the abdomen, nor was it unusually sensible to pressure. The lochiæ are nearly suppressed; the milk is not yet secreted. Towards the close of the rigor, bled her ζ xxii. The bowels had been freely opened by medicine a few hours before. In half an hour after the venesection, the pulse was 114, hard and somewhat full, and the head easier. She was ordered two grains of opium.

8 A. M. Pulse 100, soft and not very full; tongue clean; thirst excessive; the patient groans and complains of her head, and says that there alone she experienced pain; will not admit the existence of pain in the abdomen, though motion appears to trouble her. The slight uneasiness in the abdomen that she is willing to admit on further questioning, she says comes and goes like after-pains, and seems somewhat aggravated by pressure. She has dozed some since the last report, but has obtained no sound sleep. She was cupped on the temples.

12 M. Pulse 136, soft and compressible; no pain on pressing the abdomen; is very drowsy; can be aroused sufficiently to answer questions; her mind wanders, and when not disturbed she relapses into a state of stupor, with the eyes half closed. Erythematous spots upon the anterior part of the neck and right forearm, which fade at short intervals and sometimes disappear altogether.

8 P. M. She remains in the same state. One scruple of calomel was given her at 2 P. M., and ten grains were now ordered to be given every three hours.

Feb. 20th. Half-past 2 A. M. Pulse 112, rather soft and small. Is not so drowsy, but still delirious; complains of severe and constant pain in the abdomen, which is aggravated by pressure; complains also of her back and "feels tired." The lochiæ are diminished in quantity, and are of bloody colour. The milk slightly secreted yesterday, is stopped to-day; xxxij leeches were applied to the abdomen.

Half-past 10 A. M. The pulse became fuller after the bleeding from the leeches; the tongue is slightly coated; the patient has vomited about a pint of grass-green fluid; erythematous spots still seen; pupils sluggish.

Half-past 9 P. M. Pulse 126, soft and small; patient restless but rational, and thinks she is better; has been vomiting all day at short intervals, the green fluid which has now become of a darker colour. One grain of opium was given; soda water for drink.

Feb. 21st. Half-past 2 A. M. Pulse 102, fuller and stronger; patient still restless and has slept none; vomiting still continues; obliged to pass the catheter. Another grain of opium was administered.

Half-past 3 P. M. Some little volume to the pulse, which is very soft and compressible; abdomen tympanitic, complains of intense pain in the abdomen and back; and there is a good deal of tenderness over the stomach; xvi leeches were applied.

Half-past 7 P. M. Sensible, groaning, and in great pain; lies on the back, with the knees flexed; has vomited a considerable quantity of bright blood since noon. From this time she gradually sank, again became delirious a few hours before death, and died at 1 P. M. Feb. 22d, three and a half days after she was attacked. The calomel was continued up to last evening.

Post-mortem Examination, 48 hours after death.

Head. — The arachnoid membrane was not apparently inflamed, but the pia mater was intensely injected; and the substance of the brain when cut into was immediately reddened by countless bloody points. The vessels were large and numerous on the floor and roof of the ventricles.

Chest. — Both sides of the heart contained clots; the lining membrane was of a dark red or purple throughout, but otherwise healthy, and this extended down the veins to the iliacs growing less intense; the aorta had assumed the same colour; (in both probably to be attributed to post-mortem change.) The lungs were congested.

Abdomen. — The peritoneum generally was considerably injected. It was softened, thickened, and could be torn up from the cellular tissue of the intestines in strips, in which vessels could be seen when held up to the light. The cavity of the abdomen contained about a pint of sero-purulent fluid, in parts coloured red, but generally of a light cream colour. In the cellular tissue between the uterus and bladder, about a half gill of clear pus was found; the liver and diaphragm was also bathed in pus.

The stomach and intestines were much distended by gas. The stomach at its cardiac half was one mass of deep injection, among which some small gangrenous ulcers of the length of a line could be seen. The other half was of a dirty pale-yellow colour, not injected, but thickened and softened. It contained a small quantity of dark fluid. The intestines also contained a considerable quantity of grass-green fluid, but little or no fæces.

The *Liver* was softened.

Uterus. — The serous surface was bathed in pus. At the fundus, and for two and a half or three inches downwards, the inner lining was of a brownish red; it was no where clean, but partly covered with fibrous shreds and partly by irregular lumps appearing like fragments of the placenta. The portion below extending to the neck, was covered by a shreddy matter, a part purplish, but the greater part of a dirty yellowish white, resembling lymph tinged by the discharges; this layer was not thick, but pretty uniform. The neck was glistening, irregular or lumpy, œdematous, of a purple colour; and this was more intense on the elevations which were from 1 to 5 lines thick.

The vessels of the uterus near the fundus and in the body of the organ were natural, those near the neck were of a dark red colour, none of them contained pus. The fallopian tubes were congested, and of a purple colour; the ovaries were healthy.

Case VIII. — Attacked on the second day after delivery. — Treatment, V. S. leeches, calomel, opium, Dover's powder. Death on the second day. Peritonitis with effusion; Inflammation of the mucous membrane of Stomach. Inflammation of the lining membrane of Uterus. Congestion of brain.

ANN LAWLIS aged 28, a stout and healthy Irishwoman, was delivered in the Alms-house of her first child, Sunday 23d Feb. at 3 A. M., after an exceedingly severe labour of 56 hours. On Saturday evening, the head was engaged in the superior straight, and although the contractions of the uterus were considerable, it was making no advance. The presentation was natural, but the bones of the head was firmly compressed, and the contraction of the pelvis gave but little hope of a natural termination to the labour. The contractions of the uterus soon after became partial and inefficient, and eighty drops of laudanum were administered. She slept well and vigorous pains returned on Sunday morning. Sunday afternoon the pulsations of the foetal heart which had been distinctly heard the previous afternoon being absent, the head being only jammed more tightly in the pelvis, without making any real progress, the pulse growing small and rapid, hiccough and green vomiting taking place, the head was opened, and the child extracted by the crotchet.

Monday morning, Feb. 24th. Found the patient with a quick small hard pulse, abdomen tympanitic; complaining of acute pain on the least pressure over the right, and a slighter degree of it over the left iliac region, and just below the umbilicus. ℞ of calomel was given, a dozen leeches were applied, and she was an hour or two after, bled $\frac{3}{4}$ xiv.

1 P. M. The pulse which became fuller after the bleeding, has now become small and frequent; one and a half grains of opium were ordered, and every three hours subsequently five grains of Dover's powder.

Feb. 25th. Pulse 150; two or three green watery evacuations from the bowels since last report.

4 P. M. Up to this time she has been lying in a half sleepy state, free from pain. I now find her groaning from excessive pain, and complaining bitterly of her back. The pulse is very small and quick: hiccough, which commenced before delivery, still attends her; but the green vomiting has not occurred since. She died at half-past 8 P. M.

The discharge from the uterus continued, but was slimy, and bloody, and very foetid. The milk was not secreted. No erythematous eruption was seen.

Post-mortem Examination 16 hours after death.

Head. — The scalp bled much more than usual when cut into; dura mater unusually adherent to the skull; membranes of the brain much injected; bright injection of the pia mater at the base of the brain; vessels of the lateral ventricles numerous and full.

Thorax and vessels. — Lungs healthy; pleuræ on both sides much injected; a few ounces of clear serum only in the cavities. The pericardium externally

was much inflamed; the cardiac portion was not inflamed, but there was an effusion of four or five ounces of clear serum. *Heart.*—A clot was found in the right auricle, another in the left auricle, extending into the left ventricle; the right auricle was empty. The left auricle and valve were of natural colour; the right was of a dull red colour, which grew less intense to the iliac bifurcation; here it increased in intensity to the branches of the uterine veins, and disappeared as these subdivided. Pus was carefully sought for, but no where found. On the blood in the veins were floating minute particles of what appeared oily matter. The veins of the arm were no where reddened. The arteries were in a natural state.

Abdomen.—This cavity contained about a pint of dirty cream coloured puriform fluid, with shreds of lymph floating in it. The peritoneum generally was decidedly injected, particularly where it passes over the liver, kidneys, uterus, and over the small intestines, and here the injection was most intense where the convolutions meet each other, and lymph was here effused; the diaphragm was also highly inflamed and coated with a thick layer of lymph. No gas escaped from the cavity of the peritoneum, though the stomach and intestines were distended by it. The stomach contained nearly a quart of a dark green fluid; the intestines, a considerable quantity of a lighter colour. The stomach presented a dark inflamed spot, three or four inches square, near its cardiac orifice; the pyloric portion was mammillated. The small intestines presented some injection on their mucous surface.

Uterus.—The walls when cut into were of a rose colour; the vessels gave no evidence of inflammation, and no pus was found in them; the large veins near the neck and those of the posterior portion, were however, somewhat red. Internally, the uterus presented a singular appearance; near the fundus were the remains of a placenta, apparently but little altered in structure. Below was seen a dark shreddy secretion, appearing like a mixture of pus and lymph, of the colour without any of the other characters of gangrene, becoming darker near the neck, and through the vagina, where it became much thinner; the neck was also black, and infiltrated with blood, and lobulated. One ovary was congested, the other apparently healthy.

The internal orifice of the urethra was black and ecchymosed, and the walls of the urethra were blackened and thickened throughout.

The pelvis was not measured, but it was found very much contracted.

In the other organs nothing abnormal could be discovered.

The five following cases occurred in the Nursery.

Case IX.—MARY TENEY. *No notes were kept of the history of this case. Post-mortem examination 33 hours after death.*

ABDOMEN. The cavity of the abdomen contained about half a pint of a seropurulent fluid, with a few flakes of lymph floating in it. The peritoneal covering of the abdomen and of the intestines, was much injected. The mucous membrane of the stomach was softened and thickened.

Liver. This organ was of a lighter colour than natural, and when cut into, presented a marbled yellow appearance.

Uterus, etc. The cavity of the uterus was covered at the fundus with an adherent substance, looking much like a portion of retained placenta. That of the body was covered with a thin slate-coloured secretion. The cervix had a dark appearance, and the os uteri was black and thickened. The external third of the vagina presented a black appearance. The ovaries and broad ligaments were injected.

Vessels. The vena cava ascendens and descendens, the iliac and uterine veins, as far as the branches that divide in that organ, were reddened.

Head. The membranes of the brain were highly injected. The internal lining of the sinuses and veins was natural.

Case X.—Attacked 3d day after delivery. Treatment opiates, fomentations, spirits turpentine, &c. Death 4th day. Peritonitis with slight sero-purulent effusion: inflammation of the mucous membrane of stomach.

SARAH MONDAY was delivered of her first child on the 28th of February, after a perfectly natural and easy labour.

March 1st. Her pulse became accelerated and the abdomen tympanitic, but she complained of no pain when pressure was made over that region. Her countenance was expressive of suffering and anxiety. Ordered a scruple of calomel, to be followed by oil, and hot fomentations to be applied to the abdomen. The medicine operated freely on her bowels. In the evening she became restless and uneasy. Sixty drops of laudanum were given her, and the fomentations to the abdomen continued. Four hours afterwards repeated the dose of laudanum.

March 2d. Slept none last night, but continued restless and muttering, though complaining of no suffering. This morning her eyes are bloodshot, her countenance pale and expressive of great anxiety; mind wandering, although when spoken to she answers correctly. Tongue pointed, red at the edges, and covered with a white fur in the centre. Pulse 100, rather small, but soft and easily compressed. Fomentations continued, and diluent drinks with effervescing draughts allowed her.

March 3d. No improvement; abdomen much distended. The following mixture was ordered her, in tablespoonful doses:—

Spirits of Turpentine,	ʒij.
Tinct. Assafœtid.	ʒi.
Mucilage,	ʒv.
Sugar,	q. s.

The first dose was retained by the stomach; but the second was vomited, together with a thin greenish fluid.

At half past 3 P. M. administered an injection, containing an ounce of turpentine and half an ounce of castor oil. This brought away a large quantity of dark fetid feculent matter, and much flatus. At 10 P. M. ordered a table-

spoonful of spirits of turpentine undiluted, and flannel soaked in the same, to be applied to the abdomen.

11 P.M. No improvement; countenance still anxious; lips livid; restlessness and occasional sighing; pulse small and fluttering; extremities cold. Mustard draughts applied to the legs, and half the previous dose of the turpentine administered, which was partly vomited a few minutes afterwards.

March 4, half-past 1 A.M. Has vomited several times small quantities of the peculiar fluid before mentioned. Hands and legs are now cold and clammy. Warm wine and water was given her, and hot fomentations applied to the legs and feet.

Half-past 2. Pulse fluttering and intermittent. She cannot be induced to take anything. Her tongue, which is readily protruded, is covered with a light brown fur.

Half-past 6. Has vomited several times; pulse scarcely perceptible. She died at 11 o'clock, A.M.

Post-mortem Examination five hours after death.

Body covered with purple spots.

Abdomen. — The cavity of the abdomen contained little or no effusion. The peritoneal covering of its walls presented no decided marks of inflammation. That of the intestines was a little more vascular than common, with here and there a speck or two of lymph. In the stomach was found about a gill of a yellowish fluid, smelling strongly of turpentine. Its mucous surface was inflamed near the pyloric orifice, and somewhat thickened.

Liver. — Substance healthy. Its veins were rather gorged with blood, and the gall bladder was distended with a thick, viscid bile.

Kidneys. — Secreting portion taking on a granular and yellowish appearance.

Uterus and Appendages. — A small quantity of a sero-purulent fluid was found between the uterus and the bladder. The broad ligaments were congested, less so however on the right side. The fallopian tube of the right side was injected. The ovaries were apparently in a healthy condition. The Uterus externally presented nothing peculiar. On laying open its cavity, a greenish-gray-coloured deposit, intermixed with portions of bloody coagula, covered the upper portion. Near the cervix, and quite down to the os uteri, the matter was of a dark red colour, intermixed with scattered spots of a yellowish deposit. Its vessels bore no traces of inflammation.

Head. — The vessels of the brain were much congested with blood, and there was much effusion between the membranes and in the ventricles.

Case XI. — *Attacked second day after delivery. Treatment, mercurial purge, opiates, turpentine mixture. Death on the third day. Peritonitis, with sero-purulent effusion; inflammation of the ovaries.*

MARGARET HOLLOW was delivered of her first child on the 29th of February, after about 28 hours' labour. The child was born without any assistance from art; although, from the deformity of her pelvis, and the slow progress with

which the delivery advanced, instruments, it was at one time thought, would be necessary. The placenta was retained for several hours, when the occurrence of hourglass contraction, with severe hemorrhage, rendered assistance necessary. She lost about two quarts of blood. In the evening, some two or three hours afterwards, ordered 60 gtts. of laudanum.

March 1st. This morning found the abdomen tympanitic, and on making pressure over this region, she complained of pain. Her pulse was 120, small and easily compressed. Hop fomentations were applied to the abdomen, and a scruple of calomel, to be followed by oil, ordered her. No lochial discharge had as yet made its appearance. Her breasts were well supplied with milk. (Her child died early this morning of convulsions.) Towards evening she complained of her feet being cold and numb. Mustard draughts were applied to them, and cloths wrung out in hot brandy and water to the inside of the thighs. The calomel had operated freely, and towards evening there was slight lochial discharge. Sixty drops of laudanum were given her at night.

March 2d. Rested pretty well last night. This morning complains of pain in the belly, which is *relieved* by slight pressure. Bowels moved two or three times in the course of the night.

1 o'clock, P.M. — Large quantities of flatus have been passed by the bowels, with relief. The following mixture, in tablespoonful doses every hour, was ordered her: —

Spts. Turpentine, ℥ii.
Spts. Nitre, ℥i.
Mucilage, ℥v.
Sugar, q. s.

3 P.M. — Has taken three doses of the mixture, and large quantities of flatus have been discharged. An injection, containing ℥ss. of spirits of turpentine, was administered. Large quantities of flatus continued to be discharged from the bowels, and with great relief. Flannel soaked in the turpentine was now applied to the abdomen, and about 10 o'clock, another injection, containing turpentine and oil, was given her. This last brought away frothy, black discharges, and a round worm. Shortly after this, ordered her a tablespoonful of the turpentine undiluted. Pulse at that time 150, and hard. Half an hour afterwards the pulse had sunk to 100, and was softer and fuller. Belly not much distended. 11 o'clock. — She complained much of the smarting of the application to the belly, and could with difficulty be induced to keep it on for any length of time; pulse 100; belly soft and flaccid, and not painful on pressure. About an hour and a half after the first dose of turpentine, she was ordered another.

March 3d, half-past 1, A.M. — Bowels have been moved several times; pulse now small and feeble. Face hot; hands and legs cold. Warm wine and water was administered to her; hot bricks applied to the feet, and fomentations of hot brandy and water to the thighs. Soon after, she insisted on rising from the bed, which she did with but little assistance; sat up in a chair, arranged her hair, and had clean dry clothes put on. She then went to bed and appeared easy, but rather weak and feeble. Warm wine and water was administered freely.

Half-past 6, A.M. — Vomited for the first time; fluid of a greenish hue; belly again tympanitic; and she had frequent eructations. Hands and feet cold and clammy; pulse small and quick. Administered half a tablespoonful of the turpentine, and an injection of oil, with $\frac{3}{4}$ ss. of the same. This brought away a black tar-like discharge. Belly less tympanitic.

Half-past 7, A.M. — Feels easier; pulse still feeble. Wine continued.

Half-past 12. — Pulse fluttering; countenance anxious. Ordered her brandy toddy. She now complains of no pain in the belly, but of great distress in the back. Pulse quicker, but fuller. Stimulants continued.

Half-past 9, P.M. — Still complains of suffering severe pain in the back. Gave her 60 drops of laudanum, which failing to give ease, was repeated one hour afterwards. The pain in the back shortly shifted to the right shoulder. Ordered stimulants to be administered freely throughout the night. About half-past 2, A.M., saw her again, she was then sinking fast, and died about two hours afterwards.

Post-mortem Examination one and a half hours after death. No purple discolourations on the body.

Abdomen. — The peritoneal lining of the abdominal cavity, presented no marked signs of inflammation. The omentum was large, and well lined with fatty deposit. A small quantity of sero-purulent fluid was found in this cavity. The stomach was much distended; the intestines less so. The peritoneal surface of the intestines showed no signs of inflammation. A spot or two of lymph was found on the anterior surface of the spleen. On raising up the uterus with a view to remove it, about 2 oz. of sero-purulent fluid was found deposited between it and the bladder.

Veins. — The vena cava slit open exhibited a delicate rose-coloured appearance, extending down the common iliacs; it was brightest on the anterior surface.

Liver. — This organ was perfectly natural.

Kidneys. — The right kidney was of a white colour, and in its pelvis was found some purulent matter, about $\frac{3}{4}$ i. The left was natural.

The *Stomach* contained about $\frac{3}{4}$ i. of dark-coloured fluid. Its mucous membrane was softened near the pyloric orifice, elsewhere thickened and tough.

Intestines. — Presented nothing worthy of note.

Uterus and Appendages. — Both ovaries were found much enlarged and covered with lymph. The left measured 2 inches in length, and 1 inch and 2 lines in breadth. The right, 2 inches long, and 11 lines in breadth. The fallopian tubes were reddened, and in both there was a great quantity of pus. The right ovary, when cut open, presented a mamillated appearance — as did also the left, though not so well marked; the whole tissue of both seemingly infiltrated with a deposition of lymph. The anterior surface of the uterus was mostly of a white colour, with here and there spots of a pale rose tint. The lower, or posterior surface, was more reddened. Its cavity was covered over, at the fundus, with a thick, tenacious, dark-brown coloured substance, very offensive to the smell; at the neck it presented more of a greenish-gray appearance.

Case XII. — Attacked second day after delivery. Treatment mercurial purgative, opiates, V. S. leeches, calomel and opium. Death on the third day. Peritonitis, with sero-lymphatic effusion; Inflammation mucous membrane of Stomach.

EMMELINE CLARKE was delivered of her first child March 2d., after a tedious and difficult labour of about 26 hours, caused by deformity of the pelvis, and complicated with hourglass contraction and severe hemorrhage. In the evening, some three or four hours after delivery, her pulse became accelerated, but not more so than was to be expected. A common injection was administered, and after its operation an opiate. She had during labour and the day previous, vomited several times a greenish fluid.

March 3d. Says she feels comfortable; complains of no pain in the belly. Lochial discharge free, and the breasts were supplied with milk.

7 P. M. She now complains of headache, but attributes it to want of sleep. Pulse 148, full and bounding. Some hours previous ordered her ℞i. of calomel, which had operated freely. Dover's powder.

March 4th. Pulse as yesterday; complains of no pain, but countenance anxious and wild. She is now, and has been since her confinement in a peculiar state of mental excitement, evidently suffering, but unwilling to admit that anything ails her and refusing to submit to treatment. At about 11 A. M. the nurse brought the information that she complained of pain at the lower part of the abdomen and had desired fomentations of brandy with camphor to be applied. On visiting her, she denied suffering pain. Applied cups to the abdomen, and in the afternoon an injection of oil with spirits of turpentine was administered.

9 P. M. She now acknowledges that she suffers from pain and soreness in the belly, but stoutly insists that it is owing to the cups, and refuses to have anything further done for her, than the application of fomentations, desiring to be left undisturbed for the night — with the promise, that if she is no better in the morning, she will be prescribed for. She however took xii grs. of Dover's powder, with one of opium.

March 5th. Seems more composed, but her countenance looks anxious and painful. Last night she vomited a small quantity of greenish fluid. Bled her from the arm, to the amount of about ℥xii. which eased the pain and reduced her pulse about 40 beats; 53 leeches were then applied to the abdomen; a blister 6 × 12 to each thigh, and a poultice of bread with the addition of a small quantity of mustard to each breast. Two pills containing 4 grs. of calomel and ¼ of opium were given, and one to be repeated every hour. The nurse was further directed to syringe out the vagina with warm soap-suds and water.

2 P. M. Pain in the abdomen less severe; pulse 110; tongue moist and covered with a white fur. Gruel, with the addition of small quantity of wine was allowed her.

4 P. M. Countenance ghastly; complains of numbness of the feet; forehead covered with large drops of cold sweat; pulse scarcely perceptible; breathing laborious and quick. Ordered wine to be freely administered. She died half an hour afterwards.

Post-mortem Examination 16 hours after death. No discolouration over the body.

Abdomen.—The peritoneal lining of the abdominal parietes presented a white and rather dull appearance. The anterior portion of the serous surface of the small intestines was traversed by numerous arborescent vessels. The omentum was small, and portions of it, particularly near the transverse colon, somewhat injected. On either side of the longitudinal bands of the transverse colon, there was a line of uniform redness about one quarter of an inch broad. In the cavity the abdomen, there was nearly a half pint of brown coloured serum, with flocculi of lymph floating in it.

Stomach and Intestines.—These were much distended with gas. The stomach contained about half a pint of a thick dark green coloured substance with portions of vegetable matter mixed up with it, giving it the appearance of thick green paint. Just below the cardiac orifice and towards the upper or anterior surface of the stomach, there was a red patch of injection, about the size of a dollar, and another near its great cul de sac, having more of a dotted appearance. The mucous membrane was much softened and could be easily scraped off with the finger nail. The mucous membrane of the small intestines was somewhat injected; the fluid they contained was of a greenish hue.

Liver.—This organ was large and triangular in shape. The right lobe extended down to the crest of the ilium. The anterior surface presented a mottled appearance. On the suspensory ligament was a small quantity of lymph. The substance of the liver was healthy; its vessels presenting no signs of disease.

Spleen.—Was large and softened.

Kidneys.—A small quantity of pus was found in the pelvis of both kidneys. The left was small and of a white colour. The veins and arteries when cut into, presented a dull-red hue.

Bladder.—This organ contained about a half drachm of pus. Its internal surface was healthy.

Uterus and Appendages.—The broad ligaments were of a purple colour near the uterus; more particularly so on the right side. The cellular tissue between the bladder and uterus, presented a pale straw coloured appearance, as if pus had been infiltrated into its cells. On squeezing the fallopian tube, a small quantity of a milky fluid was discharged. The substance of the uterus when cut into, looked healthy, and its veins were apparently not inflamed. Its internal surface was covered at the fundus with a dark brown, very fœtid, stringy matter, intermixed here and there, with a gray, ash coloured deposit. Towards the cervix it was less dark, and presented more of the gray substance, dotted with red. The ovaries were large and reddened.

Head.—The membranes of the brain were not much injected, showing but slight vascular turgescence. The arachnoid was somewhat thickened and of

a yellow colour. There was considerable effusion into the ventricles, and also at the base of the brain.

Case XIII. — Attacked tenth day after delivery. Treatment V. S. leeches, vesicat. calomel and opium; opium; and turpentine injection. Death on the third day. Peritonitis with effusion of serum and lymph. Inflammation mucous membrane of Stomach and large intestines; inflammation of right ovary.

FRANCES REDDY was delivered of her first child, Feb. 25th, after a perfectly natural and easy labour. Everything went on well until March 5th, when she began to complain of pain in the belly. Her pulse was 100 and full. Ordered V. S. to the amount of ζ xii. and applied six dozen leeches to the abdomen, a blister 6 x 12 to each thigh, and a pill of calomel grs. 4, opium gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ every hour. Three hours afterwards when seen again, complained of no pain in the abdomen, and suffered but little when pressure was made.

Half-past 10 P. M. Found her screaming out with pain in the belly; pulse 80, small and soft. Her countenance expressing more of anxiety and alarm, than of acute pain. Ordered xii grs. of Dover's powder, with one of opium.

12 o'clock. Has fallen into a calm sleep. Skin moist; pulse soft and not beating over 100. Bowels had been freely moved.

March 6th, 7 o'clock, A.M. Found her dozing — she awoke during the visit and expressed herself as feeling much better. About 4 o'clock this morning she took a small quantity of thin gruel.

Half-past 7 P. M. Has been quiet and composed during the early part of the day, complained of no pain, and inquired about her child. This evening found her in a semi-somnolent, drowsy state with twitching of the tendons of the left hand and intermittent pains in the belly. Her thighs and legs are drawn up, when the pain is upon her. Breathing, short and quick; countenance wild and anxious; pulse small, quick and intermittent. The left cheek hot and flushed; right, pallid and cold. Abdomen tympanitic. She now takes the pills every half-hour.

8 P. M. Ordered her an injection of Spts. Terebinth and oil. She is dozing all the time, and wandering in her mind. Pulse 148, and small. Tongue dark red at the edges, and covered with a greenish fur in the centre. A Dover's powder was given her.

Half-past 9 P. M. The injection has brought away dark green discharges; her pulse 154; took another Dover's powder.

May 7th, half-past 5 A. M. She was restless and uneasy the rest of the night. She now lies on her right side. Her pulse scarcely perceptible; hands cold and clammy; dozing and muttering. When aroused, she looks wild and anxious. The right cheek is now hot; the left cold. She died about half-past 9, having vomited a short time previous a quantity of greenish fluid.

Post-mortem Examination one hour and a half after death.

Abdomen. — The stomach and intestines were distended with gas. A small quantity of pure serum was found in the cavity of the abdomen. Strings of

lymph lay between the folds of the intestines. There was slight arborescent injection of the peritoneal lining of the visceral walls. The mesentery was traversed by numerous vessels. A small quantity of lymph was found between the stomach and spleen.

Stomach and Intestines. — The mucous membrane of the stomach was softened. It contained about half a pint of green fluid. The small intestines showed no signs of inflammation. The mucous membrane of the cœcum, and about six inches of that of the colon, was of a deep, reddish-brown colour with ash-coloured spots, thickened and readily peeling off. For two feet beyond, the membrane was healthy, then precisely the same appearance and condition of the intestine was continued on for about one foot; the rest was natural.

Kidneys. — Presented a little more vascularity than natural.

Liver. — This organ was of a mottled colour externally; its vessels were not inflamed. The gall bladder was filled with dark green bile, intermixed with light copper-coloured spots.

Uterus &c. — There was a small quantity of lymph between the uterus and bladder. The external surface of the uterus presented no abnormal appearance. The right ovary was enlarged, and on cutting into its substance, several small abscesses about the size of a pea, were opened into. The broad ligament of the same side was thickened and puffed out by deposition of lymph. The internal surface of the uterus was covered with a pink-coloured matter of the appearance of healthy lochial discharge. Its vessels were not inflamed.

The four following cases occurred in the Black Hospital; they were all fatal in their termination.

Case XIV. — *Attacked the third day after delivery. Treatment V. S. enemata. Death on second day. Peritonitis with sero-lymphatic effusion; Pus in the fallopian tubes; congestion of brain.*

ELIZABETH WILSON, a negress, was delivered of her first child on the evening of the 17th of April. The labour was severe and tedious, continuing about 26 hours. The following morning she complained of pain in the belly, and her pulse was accelerated. A dose of castor-oil was administered.

April 19th. Complains of chilliness; ordered a purgative, and warm applications to body. In the evening she became restless, and complained of suffering much pain; pulse accelerated and feeble; voice reduced to a whisper. She was bled till she became faint, without producing any marked effect in the symptoms.

April 20th. An enema was ordered. About 9 o'clock in the morning, she was comparatively easy; her medicine had operated freely, and she expressed herself as feeling somewhat better; pulse about 100; abdomen somewhat tender to the touch, and not very tympanitic. Tongue covered with light brown fur; she complained of a burning sensation in the stomach. Ordered iced drinks and light nutritive food. Towards evening the pulse began to sink, and the

extremities became cold; frictions and warm applications were directed, with brandy internally — but she soon became insensible, and died about 11 o'clock P. M.

Post-mortem Examination 16 hours after death.

Abdomen. — The abdominal viscera were not much distended. Lymph in considerable quantities lay upon and between the folds of the small intestines. In the abdominal cavity there was about half a pint of a yellowish serum. The peritoneal lining of the walls of the abdomen presented numerous injected vessels; that of the intestines was but slightly injected.

Stomach and Intestines. — The stomach contained a quantity of a yellowish brown coloured fluid. Its mucous membrane was sound and presented no other abnormal appearances, than two patches of dark injection near the pyloric orifice. The intestines presented nothing worthy of note.

Liver. — The substance of this organ was healthy; the internal surface of its veins was of a dark red colour. The gall bladder was filled with a viscid tar-like bile.

Kidneys. — Both kidneys contained in their tubes, small quantities of a purulent secretion.

Bladder. — There was red ecchymosis near its lower and anterior portion, and a secretion, like that found in the kidneys, could be scraped off its surface in very small quantities.

Uterus and Appendages. — The uterus externally, presented nothing worthy of note. Its internal surface was covered at the fundus with a glairy, dark-claret coloured secretion, which scraped off, left a clear and apparently healthy surface beneath; at the cervix it was covered with a gray ash-coloured and stringy secretion. The ovaries were slightly congested. On laying open the fallopian tubes, a small quantity of purulent fluid was found covering the surface.

Thorax. — Both lungs contained a quantity of frothy serum. The trachea and bronchial tubes were reddened. The vena cava descendens presented, on its internal surface, a dark red appearance, throughout its whole extent.

Head. — The brain showed much venous and arterial congestion. There was a much effused fluid between the membranes and in the ventricles.

Case XV. — *Attacked on the 2d day after delivery. Treatment Spts. turpentine internally, and by fomentations; opiates. Death on 6th day. Peritonitis with sero-lymphatic effusion; pus in the fallopian tube.*

MARIA ALLEN, a colored woman, was delivered of her first child on the evening of the 15th of May. About 9 o'clock P. M. the following evening, she was attacked with a severe chill, followed by great excitement; skin very hot and dry; pulse 130; complains of pain in the right side of the head and right eye shooting to the back; abdomen tender to the touch, but not tympanitic. Half an ounce of spts. turpentine was given her. About 12 o'clock her pulse was softer, and the pain in the abdomen had mostly subsided. A tablespoonful of the turpentine was ordered her every hour.

Half-past 4 A. M. Still some little tenderness over the abdomen; pain in the head and eye has left her. As the medicine had not operated on her bowels, she was ordered three table-spoonsful of the turpentine at a dose; flannel dipped in the same to be applied to the abdomen.

8 A. M. The medicine has operated freely on her bowels, and the patient expresses herself as feeling much relieved. Pain in the abdomen has entirely left her. Pulse 134, soft and full. The application of the turpentine to the abdomen, was endured only for a short time. Ordered another table-spoonful of the turpentine, and directed the fomentation to be applied on the recurrence of the pain.

12 o'clock. She is now sweating freely. Her bowels have been moved several times. Pulse 134; she has taken eight table-spoonsful of the turpentine; now complains of no pain in the abdomen or head. Omitted the turpentine, and ordered mucilaginous drinks. About two hours after she fell asleep; her pulse beat slower, and more regular.

Towards evening, the pulse became more accelerated, and the patient complained of pain in the abdomen. Three table-spoonsful of the turpentine were given at intervals of an hour; this produced free discharges from the bowels, and relieved the pain. About half-past 10, xii grs. of Dover's powder with one of opium were administered, which failing to induce sleep, was repeated twice afterwards, at proper intervals.

May 18th. Slept pretty well last night, and this morning seems much more comfortable; pulse 124, and soft; and but slight tenderness of the abdomen. By request, some panada was allowed. Towards evening, the patient again became uneasy; the fur on the tongue was thicker and more slimy. She complained principally of pain in the right thigh. The pain soon after returned to the abdomen, and her pulse rose to 148; the lochial discharge which had hitherto been pretty free, diminished. Two table-spoonsful of the turpentine were given her. About 1 o'clock, she complained of headache, but the turpentine had operated on her bowels, and her belly was relieved. Ordered 12 grs. of Dover's powder, with one of opium.

May 19th. Slept pretty well last night; evacuations from bowels, of which she had several last night, of a greenish yellow colour. About 9 o'clock, the pain in abdomen again returned. ℥j of turpentine were given, which produced relief. Ordered 5 grs. of nitre every hour, in mucilaginous drink.

In the evening, the pain in the abdomen returned with double severity; the warm turpentine fomentation was applied, which relieved it.

May 20th. Has taken two powders of opium and Dover's powder; slept 3 or 4 hours last night; bowels moved several times. Took small quantity of gruel and mucilaginous drinks; the pain in the abdomen intermittent. In the afternoon, she again became worse; pain in the abdomen severe; tongue covered with a brown thick slimy coat; continues the nitre. About half-past 7, she threw up a small quantity of a grass-green fluid, and pulse rose to 160. Ordered her six pills, containing Camphor 3 grs., Ext. Hyosciamus 2 grs. every hour.

May 21st. Vomited about a table-spoonful of greenish fluid last night. This

morning, tongue covered with a thick, brown, tenacious fur; edges paler, with somewhat of a livid hue. The pulse became feeble as the day advanced, — brandy and milk was allowed her — but she gradually sunk, and died at 2 o'clock, P. M., passing into a state of insensibility, about half an hour previous to death.

Post-mortem Examination 26 hours after death.

The viscera not much distended with gas. The peritoneal covering of the parietes and of the intestines, presented patches of bright injection. No lymph was found either on the intestines or floating in the fluid, of which there was about half a pint in the cavity, of a reddish colour. Between the uterus and bladder, the fluid was of muco-purulent nature. The whole cellular tissue between the mesentery and the different viscera, was puffed out with deposition of lymph.

Stomach. — This organ contained about half a pint of fluid of a yellow colour; its mucous membrane was somewhat thickened and softened, with here and there spots of ecchymosis.

Intestines. — Mucous membrane perfectly normal; they contained a large quantity of yellow fœces.

Liver. — This organ was very much softened; readily breaking down under the fingers. When thus broken up, it presented a mass of granules of the size of mustard seed. The gall-bladder contained thick black bile, intermixed with bright gold-coloured spots. Its vessels contained a quantity of uncoagulated blood, and their internal surface was of a dark chocolate colour.

Urinary Apparatus. — The kidneys were somewhat more vascular than natural, but presented no other signs of disease. The urinary bladder was normal.

Spleen softened.

Uterus and Appendages. — The fallopian tubes and broad ligaments, were much congested on their peritoneal surface. The left fallopian tube when slit open, showed vascularity of its internal surface, and towards its upper portion a quantity of pus was found. The right was also vascular; but no pus was seen. The ovaries were flabby, their peritoneal surface much injected. The cavity of the uterus was covered over from the fundus down to the cervix, with a dark chocolate, stringy substance, which was easily scraped off with the knife, showing the surface beneath injected. The cervix was covered with a firmly adherent substance, of a greenish-gray colour, with spots of white. The os uteri was of a dark purple colour. Beneath the peritoneal surface of the uterus, there was much deposit of lymph.

Chest. — The lungs were congested with blood. The pericardium contained about a gill of a reddish fluid.

Vessels. — The vena cava presented a chocolate colour on its internal surface.

Head. — Not examined.

Case XVI. — Attacked the 2d day after delivery. Treatment, camphor and opium ; purgatives, fomentations, V. S. &c. Death on the 6th day.

HESTER CASSAM, negress, aged about 35, was delivered of her third child, Feb. 3d, after an easy labour of about four hours. On the succeeding morning, she took two ounces of castor-oil, which procured two evacuations ; to accomplish which, she unfortunately left her bed, and was shortly after seized with a chill, and severe pain in the lower part of the abdomen ; but as she had been accustomed to suffer considerably from after-pains, but little was thought of it, and a pill of camphor and opium, was given to allay it. On visiting her shortly after, and finding the pain not diminished, 10 grs. of Dover's powder was given, and fomentations, were applied to the abdomen. In the evening, directed sulph. mag. ʒss. and calc. mag. ʒij. ; and ordered her to be cupped, which it was subsequently ascertained she would not allow to be done.

Feb. 5th. Has vomited some green bilious fluid ; pain relieved.

Evening. Pulse 110, full and strong ; tongue covered with a thin white fur ; abdomen, tender on pressure, especially the uterine region. Has vomited during the day considerable quantities of the peculiar green fluid. Ten cups were applied over the abdomen, but owing to the relaxed state of the integuments, but little blood was drawn. A large fomentation was applied after the cups, and six ounces of blood were taken from the arm. She was allowed flax-seed tea, and cream of tartar water, ad libitum.

Feb. 6th. Found the pulse not materially altered ; has vomited considerable during the night ; tongue and lips of a peculiar green colour. Ordered ten grs. of calomel.

Evening. Appeared better ; less pain on pressure ; pulse moderated greatly in force ; but the same discharge continues from the stomach. Continue drinks.

Feb. 8th. Patient somewhat easier ; tongue cleaner ; pulse about the same ; vomiting still continues. Evening. Appears quite comfortable ; perspiration profuse. Ordered Dover's powder 10 grs.

Feb. 9th. 7 A. M. The nurse states a change had taken place within a quarter of an hour. Found her moribund. Stimulants were exhibited unavailingly, and she died at half-past 8 A. M.

Unfortunately, no examination was made of this case, as the body was removed.

Case XVII. — Attacked the 3d day after delivery. Treatment, V. S. ; Peruvian Bark ; afterwards Spts. Turpentine. Death on the 5th day. Peritonitis, with effusion of lymph and pus ; inflammation of the mucous membrane of Stomach and small Intestines ; deposit of lymph in the Ovaries.

LUCY GREEN, a black woman, aged 21, of rather spare habit, was delivered of

her 2d child, after an easy labour of about five hours, on 4th March. On the 5th, she complained of pain in the abdomen; but, as the pulse was not accelerated, it was considered merely the effect of labour; 10 gra. of Dover's powder was ordered, and she rested pretty comfortably during the night. Lochiae free, and milk secreted in small quantity.

March 6th. Has had no evacuation from the bowels, since delivery; tongue coated with a thick yellowish-brown fur; took calomel 10 gra. About 3 P.M. shortly after she had taken the powder, she complained of griping pain in the stomach, which she said followed a draught of cold water. Pulse natural, (78.) Ordered hop fomentations, and camphor mixture, which latter, she vomited shortly after its administration. At half-past 10, found her in a violent chill, which lasted 15 minutes; complaining of pain on pressure over the abdomen; pulse very rapid (140,) and small; surface of the body, cool; skin contracted; as the chill passed off, the pulse rose in force; skin became hot. She was bled 24 ounces, when she fainted. After recovery, her pulse was 106, fuller and stronger than before bleeding. About half an hour after, she complained chiefly of pain in the head, that in the abdomen being not very acute; gave her ten grains of Dover's powder, with one of opium. As all other methods of treatment had been ineffectually tried in the other cases, commenced the administration of bark, in accordance with the recommendation of Dr. Burns, in doses of a drachm every hour.

March 7th, 2 o'clock, A. M. Pulse 106; tongue pointed and covered with a thin white fur; complains less of pain, and appears somewhat wandering in her mind.

6 A. M. Pulse 98; complains of no pain in the head, but of some soreness over the abdomen. 8 o'clock. Pulse 116, soft and compressible; pain in the abdomen, none in the head. As the bark had caused neither vomiting nor purging, it was directed to be given in drachm doses, every half hour. About 9, complained of the slightest touch on the abdomen; directed a large plaster to be applied, thickly sprinkled with opium. This, somewhat relieved the pain.

11 o'clock. She was on the close stool, (no passage however.) Complains that the powders make her sick, but has not vomited; countenance, not particularly anxious, but rather dull. Pulse 116, stronger and full.

Noon. Tongue coated with a brown fur; pulse 124, full and strong; bowels not loose. The patient appears stupid, and complains of considerable pain on pressure.

6 P. M. Pulse 146; vomited the last dose of bark; ordered it per anum, but instead of being retained, she passed about a quart of a greenish looking fluid. 8 o'clock, directed to take the bark ʒj. every two hours.

March 8th, 7 A. M. Pulse 140, small; tongue covered with a whitish fur; bowels have been opened five times during the night. Rejected the bark but once from the stomach. Complains less of pain, but suffers still from pressure over the uterine region; countenance is somewhat expressive of anxiety. Lochial discharge rather pale; milk scantily secreted.

Half-past 6 P. M. About one hour since, vomited a pint of green fluid, attended with hiccup. Has had two small evacuations from the bowels; pulse

the same; pain in the abdomen more acute. The green vomiting being regarded as a fatal symptom, and as an evidence of the inutility of the treatment with bark, its further use was abandoned, and half an ounce of spts. of turpentine was given. She shortly passed much wind, by the mouth; and finally the medicine, together with about half a pint of the greenish fluid.

Half-past 9 P. M. Complains less of pain. As she had rejected the medicine, it was repeated; and cloths steeped in spts. of turpentine, were applied over the abdomen.

11 P. M. Pulse upwards of 140; has passed about a pint of brownish coloured water. No vomiting since last visit.

March 9th, 5 A. M. Has vomited several times during the night; hiccup continues; secretion of milk and lochiæ partial. During the day edges of the tongue cleaned to a very considerable degree. About 11, gave a table-spoonful (about ʒij.) of spts. turpentine. Pulse small, rapid, and feeble; respiration 60 in the minute, and thoracic. A few minutes after the administration of the turpentine, it was ejected from the stomach; and an enema of spts. of turpentine ʒss, and Ol. Ricin. ʒi. with a pint of warm water was given and retained. At 1 o'clock, P. M. has had a passage from the bladder, of the same brownish fluid, but no passage from the bowels. Ordered spts. of turpentine ʒj. every hour, till she should have a stool; which was continued until half-past 5, P. M. without effect. Directed an enema of

Spts. Tereb. ʒj.
Ol Ricini, ʒij.
Aqua, oj.

Pulse 134.

March 10th. Midnight. No passage, either from the bowels or the bladder. Gave spts. of turpentine ʒij. and ol Ricini ʒij. Hiccup slight; tongue quite clean; respiration thoracic and frequent. 5 A. M. Pulse very rapid and small; breathing hurried; distinct mucous rattle over the posterior part of the chest. No evacuation since last visit. Enema repeated; no hiccup; bears quite strong pressure over the abdomen, without appearing to suffer much. Half-past 8. Enema was expelled shortly after the administration, but no fœces: Respiration 64; pulse upwards of 140. 10 o'clock. Respiration 60; pulse somewhat stronger, but continues the same in frequency. Has had a liquid stool, of a yellowish colour, about a pint and a half in amount; tongue covered with a slight whitish coat; expectorates a thick mucus.

2 P.M. — Respiration much hurried; pulse extremely feeble and fluttering; mucous rattle over the whole of the chest; expectoration diminished. The patient died a few minutes afterwards, and 88 hours after the chill.

Post-mortem examination two hours and a half after death. Body slightly emaciated; abdomen tympanitic; limbs somewhat rigid.

Abdomen. — Anterior face of the intestines, upper surface of the liver and diaphragm, and parietal peritoneum, covered with a thick layer of lymph; spaces between the convolutions of the intestines filled with it, and containing a small quantity of fluid of the colour and consistence of pus. The peritoneum itself vascular, the vessels of a purplish colour; omentum sealed to the intes-

tines on the one side, and to the parietal peritoneum, on the other, by plastic lymph, and its free border, purple with injection. The mesenteric, and posterior part of the membrane, gave little evidence of the inflammation.

Stomach and Intestines. — Distended with gas and fluid; fluid in the stomach thin, and of a dirty green colour; lining membrane of the stomach reddened, particularly the cardiac extremity; becoming towards the pylorus, of a pale pink hue; in all parts a little thickened, and slightly softened. The mucous membrane of the jejunum, nearly everywhere thickened, and softened; that of other ileum and colon, apparently healthy. The intestines contained a large quantity of a yellowish brick-coloured fluid, that had a strong colour of turpentine and little of fæces.

Liver. — Large, firm, and of an uniform healthy colour; the internal surface of the veins, of a milk colour, and perhaps a little thickened. Gall-bladder full of dark green bile, of a consistence a little greater than that of blood.

Spleen. — Colour, size, and consistence natural. Some lymph on the external surface.

Kidneys. — Healthy. Bladder, natural. Pancreas, normal. Mesenteric glands not largely but sensibly increased in size.

Uterus. — Peritoneal coat, more vascular than any other parts of that membrane. Substance apparently healthy, vessels nearly empty, and of an healthy colour; inner surface covered with a layer of bright pink, flocculent matter, which could be easily scraped off from the lining membrane, leaving the latter transparent, and without inflammation. Remains of the decidua on the upper and anterior portion, which was not covered with this adventitious substance.

The colour of the foreign matter, deepest towards the orifices of the fallopian tubes.

Ovaries. — Both larger than usual, covered with shreds of lymph externally; and internally exhibiting numerous small deposits of the same. Vessels healthy.

Fallopian Tubes. — Deeply injected at the fimbriated extremity, as was also the upper parts of the broad ligaments. No pus in either, but a few drops resembling milk and water, in each.

Vessels. — Cava, iliac, renal, and uterine veins, free from all appearance of disease.

Heart. — Right side, full of blood; left, nearly empty; vessels on the surface numerous. Pericardium, a little vascular, containing about one ounce of clear serum. Lining membrane healthy.

Blood. — That from the large vessels, coagulated rapidly.

Pleura. — On each side, somewhat injected, and each cavity contained a small quantity of serum.

Lungs. — Small and collapsed; no post-mortem congestion. The bronchial tubes contained a small quantity of mucus, and were slightly, if at all, vascular; in other respects healthy.

Head. — Vessels of scalp, and dura mater, bloody. Skull very thick. Half an ounce of serum above, and some below the arachnoid, on the convexity of the brain. Vascularity of the arachnoid, especially in the occipital fossæ. About two ounces of clear fluid remained in the skull, when the brain was re-

moved, and the lateral ventricles contained each half an ounce or more; the vascularity of the pia mater, not remarkable in the capillary vessels, but the larger vessels were of great size, and bordered with white lines. The brain itself was but little congested.

The three cases which conclude this Report, occurred at the Lunatic Asylum, Blackwell's Island, after the removal of the lying-in-women to that place. The post-mortem examination of all of them was made two or three days after death at Bellevue, when decomposition was far advanced.

Case XVIII. — Attacked the 8th day after delivery. Treatment, calomel and oil, fomentations. Death on 5th day. Peritonitis.

CATHARINE BANNEGAN admitted March 5th. *Æt.* 33; born in Ireland; pregnant with her first child; has been in ill health for eight months past, and is naturally of feeble habit.

May 1st. Was taken in labour, which lasted 42 hours, and was extremely difficult, owing to the pelvis being slightly deformed, and a transverse ligamentous band within the mouth of the vagina. The band was divided, and the head perforated, after which, the labour was completed naturally. Gave pulv. Dover. gr. xii. after which she slept four hours. No unpleasant symptoms appeared until May the 8th.

May 8th. Complained of severe colic pains, which yielded to anodynes and warm fomentations over the abdomen. The above pain was relieved by pressure. Ordered Sub. Mur. Hyd. grs. xv.

May 9th. Pulse 106; flatulence increased; lochiæ stopped; great anxiety of countenance; vomited matter of a bilious appearance; respiration hurried; stools natural. Directed Ol. Ricini. ζ i. and continued the warm fomentations to the abdomen.

May 10th. Pulse 120, feeble; anxiety increased; tongue a little furred white; skin moist; stools foetid; complained of pain in the head; tympanitis. During the day showed symptoms of delirium, which in the evening became violent; pulse increased to 140, feeble; perspiration copious.

May 11th. Pulse thread-like; evidently sinking; used stimulants freely, but the patient died at 2 o'clock the following morning.

Post-mortem examination. — Body in an advanced stage of decomposition.

Abdomen. — This cavity contained a large quantity of fluid of a reddish brown colour — but no lymph. Its peritoneal covering was not much injected. The serous covering of the intestines was much injected. The viscera were much distended with gas.

Stomach and Intestines. — The stomach contained a quantity of fluid of a bright yellow colour. Its mucous membrane was thickened and somewhat softened, with numerous patches of ecchymosis, particularly towards the pyloric orifice. The intestines were apparently sound — the fluid they contained was of a similar colour with that found in the intestines.

Uterus and Appendages. — The cavity of the uterus was covered with a tough, gray, ash-coloured substance, which could with difficulty be scraped off. The os uteri presented a dark gray colour. The fallopian tubes and ovaries were much injected.

Bladder. — The internal surface of this organ was natural. A thin puruloid matter could be scraped off in small quantities.

Head not examined.

Case XIX. — *Attacked on the 5th day after delivery. Treatment, mercurial purgatives. Death on the 3d day. Peritonitis, with effusion of pus.*

SARAH McCANN admitted April 30th; born in Ireland; eight days in this country before admission; æt. 21; pregnant with her first child; general health good.

May 7th. Was in labour 4 hours, which was perfectly natural, and appeared comfortable until May 11th.

May 11th. Appeared restless; bowels constipated; pulse 90; tongue furred, white; skin dry; lochiæ stopped; milk secreted. Gave Sub. Mur. Hyd. gr. x. Pulv. Jalap. grs. x., which acted kindly, and the patient appeared relieved.

May 12th. Pulse 100; skin moist; lochiæ stopped; milk free; tongue more clean; no pain in the abdomen; vomited yellowish matter in small quantities. 2 o'clock, P. M. Pulse fluttering; countenance natural; tongue clean; skin moist; slight retching. Gave Sub. Mur. Hyd. gr. xv.; applied sinapisms to the extremities.

5 P. M. Symptoms worse; perspiration increased; rubbed ungt. Hydr. ζ ss. into the abdomen and groins; applied 2 blisters, 6 by 8, to the thighs. 10 P. M. appeared to be sinking. Directed stimulants. Died at 1 o'clock, A. M., May 13th.

Post-mortem Examination. — The body was in an advanced stage of decomposition; face, neck, and inside of thighs were covered with dark purple spots.

Abdomen. — The abdominal cavity contained a quantity of reddish brown coloured fluid, but no lymph. The peritoneal lining was somewhat injected. The serous covering of the intestines seemed very much injected, but when peeled off, which could readily be done, it was found that the injection was confined principally to the tissue beneath. The *Stomach* contained nearly a quart of a deep green coloured fluid. Its mucous membrane was thickened, and softened, and of a dirty brown colour throughout. The mucous coat of the intestines was apparently in a sound condition. A quantity of bright yellow liquid fæces flowed from the intestines.

Uterus and Appendages — About ζ ss. of purulent matter was found between the uterus and bladder. The cavity of the uterus was covered from the fundus down to within about an inch of the os uteri, with a dark chocolate coloured stringy secretion. This was easily scraped off, leaving the surface beneath somewhat injected. The rest was of a dark gray colour. The vagina had a

dark appearance. *Ovaries.*— These were somewhat reddened on their peritoneal surface; they were flabby and spongy in their texture. The fallopian tubes and broad ligaments were of a dark colour, and from the former a small quantity of pus flowed.

Head.— The substance of the brain was remarkably firm. Its membranes were much injected. The arachnoid, with the pia mater, readily peeled off. There was no effusion between the membranes, and the ventricles were particularly dry.

Chest.— The *Lungs* presented no unusual appearance.

The *Heart* was flabby, and both auricles contained a quantity of a dark and thick, but uncoagulated blood. Its inner lining, particularly that of the auricles, was of a dark red colour.

Case XX.— *Attacked the 3d day after delivery. Treatment Spts. Tereb., &c. opiates, stimulants. Death on the ninth day. Peritonitis, with effusion; body much decomposed.*

MARGARET SCOTT, an Irish girl, æt. 19, of excellent constitution, was delivered of her first child at the Lunatic Asylum, May 12th, at 1 P. M. after a perfectly easy and natural labour. She slept comfortably during the afternoon and night; the following day her clothes were changed, and she appeared quite well. Lochial discharge free; milk beginning to be secreted; tongue coated with a white fur, partially clean at edges.

May 14th. Countenance anxious; pulse 124, full and quite strong; complains of but little pain, except in the head and the left side; tongue clean at edges; lochiæ free; milk secreted in small quantity; no passage from the bowels since confinement. ℞. Tereb. ʒij. in mucilage.

12 M. Has slept some; no passage from bowels since last visit; pain in the head; countenance still rather anxious, with a blush on the right cheek.

3 P. M. Bowels still confined; pulse 120, full, but compressible; respiration 34, abdominal; no pain on pressure over the abdomen; still complains of the pain in the head.

℞ Ol. Tereb. ʒj.
Ol. Ricini ʒij.
Aqua, o j. m.

To be given as an enema.

Quarter-past 5 P. M. Injection has operated, bringing away a small quantity of hardened fœces. Has slept some since visit. To take Ol. Tereb. ʒij. every hour, till it affects the bowels.

9 o'clock P. M. Has taken ʒij. once. On repetition she rejected it; pulse and respiration about the same. She expresses herself as quite comfortable.

11 P. M. She refused to take the medicine, and it was administered per anum. She shortly after had two evacuations; medicine discontinued.

May 15th. 5 o'clock, A. M. Visited her several times in the course of the

night. She slept some, and appeared more composed; pulse 110; respiration 28. Pulse continued about the same, and she was disposed to sleep.

12 M. Pulse 128, full and strong; complains of some pain in right iliac region, which is not materially increased by pressure. Has vomited once a yellowish green fluid. As she complained considerably of nausea, ordered a soda powder, which relieved it. At two o'clock, she complained for the first time, of pain over the uterus. Her pulse continued about 120, and she appeared restless throughout the day. She took merely mucilaginous drinks. The discharge, and secretion of milk, both continued.

May 16th. 5 A. M. Pulse 118; respiration performed easily, abdominal, not hurried. Had one passage during the night. Does not complain of ardor urinae. Complains of pressure over the uterine region only. Slept some during the night.

Half-past 12. Pulse 122; left cheek irregularly flushed, and much hotter than the right. Complains of pain in the lower part of the abdomen, to relieve which, a hop fomentation was applied. During the morning, vomited some greenish flaky masses, and about four ounces of a greenish fluid mixed with mucus; evacuations from bowels involuntary.

3 P. M. Two drachms more of *Ol. Tereb.* were administered. Pulse 126, and did not alter after the medicine. It produced an evacuation of about a pint and a half of clay-coloured liquid faeces. In the afternoon, countenance altered much for the worse; face was flushed irregularly; pulse remained about the same. In the evening, ordered 10 grs. of Dover's powder with one gr. of opium, but this did not procure sleep. Her discharge still continued.

May 17th. In the morning, appeared much better; countenance improved; pulse 114; but change for the worse occurred in the afternoon; bowels became tympanitic, and she complained of pain over the whole abdomen; breathing thoracic and laborious. About 8, the pulse was 130; complains of pain on slight pressure. No passage during the day. Patient lay on her back, with knees drawn up. Directed 10 grs. of Dover's powder with one gr. and a half of opium, and *Ol. Tereb.* ʒij. The turpentine caused some flatus to pass, and this relieved the distension. The powder procured no sleep, and she took two opium pills, of one gr. each. This enabled her to sleep for five or six hours.

May 18th, 5 A. M. Pulse about the same; respiration 32, thoracic; lies on her back constantly, with the knees drawn up; pressure however, does not give so much pain as previously; irregular flushes on the left cheek; countenance anxious; eyes appear sunken; no vomiting or nausea; the pulse remained about the same. During the day the cheeks were flushed, the respiration thoracic, the voice appeared suppressed, the tongue was covered with white fur, except the edges, which were red, but it was not very different from its previous condition. The lochial discharge, and the secretion of milk, still continue. She has, unconsciously, passages of greenish fluid from the bowels. In the evening, again complained of pain in the abdomen, and her position continued on the back. She appeared somewhat delirious, and was slightly sick at the stomach. Directed Dover's Powder, 10 grs., with 1½ grs. of opium, and two opium pills.

May 19th, 5 o'clock, A.M. Pulse 122, tongue red and thick. She had one passage during the night; was quite delirious, and slept but little, if any; countenance bad; eyes sunken; irregular flushed spots on both cheeks; no vomiting. Continued about the same during the day; the discharge and milk both continued; two passages from the bowels. In the evening complained most of pressure over the epigastric region; respiration thoracic; no nausea. Allowed Aniseed tea to drink, and took the Dover's Powder with opium.

May 20th, 5½ A.M. Pulse 120, has lost its fulness and strength, and is easily compressed; respiration 40; tongue dry, red, and thick; complains but little of pain in the abdomen, but refers it to the back, between the shoulders. Complains also of pain in swallowing; slept four hours during the night; had one passage from the bowels; the discharge still continues, but the milk is but little secreted; the flush on the face has assumed a darker colour. In consideration of the state of the tongue, we determined to try the use of brandy cautiously. It appeared to give more force to the pulse, but made the patient more restless, and it was discontinued. To relieve the distension, which had again become troublesome, ordered *Ol. Tereb.* ʒij. which changed the appearance of the tongue to whitish and smooth; this lasted for a short time, and then it soon resumed its former aspect. In the afternoon, pain in the abdomen considerable; pulse 136; respiration 46, thoracic; cheeks flushed irregularly in well defined spots. At the outer angle of the left eye, is an eruption resembling *Herpes phlyctenodes*; partially delirious; skin hot and dry; expression of great anxiety in the countenance. The turpentine brought away about half a pint of yellowish liquid feculent matter; and also a lumbricus about six inches long, perfectly dead. She took again the Dover's Powder and Opium, which procured an uneasy slumber; during which, *subsultus tendinum* was noticed; pulse 122; respiration 34.

May 21st. 5½ A.M. Pulse 134; tongue dry, red, cracked, and thick. Makes but little complaint of pain in the abdomen, but when pressed over the epigastric and right hypochondriac regions, she shrinks. Countenance decidedly bad this morning, the livid spots are not out; delirious; respiration 46, thoracic; tremour of the limbs, *subsultus tendinum*, and automatic movements of the hands. Again took brandy, but it appeared to render her worse; more restless. *Ol. Tereb.* ʒij. was again given to relieve the distension; it brought away considerable flatus, but no feces. She became worse in the course of the day; the spots on the face assumed a lived aspect; the breathing was laborious, and a mucous rattle was heard; the pulse was feeble and fluttering; she made but little complaint of pain, except in swallowing; she continued to sink. Brandy, preceded by thick mucilage to shield the throat, was administered as freely as she could take it. Left her about 12 o'clock, with the expectation of finding her dead on my next visit.

May 22d. Patient very nearly the same as at the last visit; perfectly sensible; breathing laborious; pulse feeble and very rapid. She was allowed stimulants freely. Saw her occasionally during the day, but she did not alter materially till about 3 in the afternoon, when her face became perfectly livid; cold sweat broke out, and she died about half past seven in the evening, very quietly, and in the possession of her mental powers.

This patient had no chill, except immediately after the birth of the child. Her discharge continued to the day of her death; scanty towards the last. The milk, for the last two or three days, was suppressed.

Post-mortem examination 62½ hours after death.

The peritoneum, both parietal and intestinal, was distinctly injected. The quantity of fluid in the abdomen scarcely exceeded half a pint, and was of a dirty red colour; lymph was found in small quantities in various quarters. On opening the uterus, the whole body was covered with a dark-red stringy secretion, which could be partially removed with the knife, showing when it was scraped off the mucous lining somewhat injected; the neck was ecchymosed and injected. The ovaries were not materially altered. The vagina presented dark ecchymosed spots, and some injection of its mucous coat. The bladder contained 3i. of puriform matter, and its inner lining was injected. The kidneys were natural. The veins were universally reddened. The head was not examined; generally the other organs were so much altered by decomposition, that their appearances need not be given.

Memoir on the Pathological Anatomy of the Bones. By GERDY, Professor of the Faculty of Medicine, Paris. Surgeon to the Hospital St. Louis. Translated from the French. By J. G. Adams, M. D.

THE organic diseases of the bones, being a subject but little understood, has for a long period, occupied my whole attention. In commencing my researches, I perceived that our ignorance on this point, was greater than I supposed, for I was conscious that our knowledge of the healthy structure of bone, was too superficial to enable us to understand the alterations produced by a diseased state in the same structure. I therefore determined first to study the organization of bone in its healthy state. The results of these researches I presented to the Academy of Sciences in 1835, and published them in the Bulletin Clinique of the same period. (*)

(*) The following is, in a few words, the results of those researches. The bones are composed 1° of compact tissue, 2° of tissue composed of canals, 3° of areolar tissue, 4° of reticulated tissue.

The compact tissue, is composed of small osseous tubes closely applied to each other, parallel to the axis of the bones, in the long bones, sometimes converging in the flat bones towards the primitive points of ossification. The furrows seen on the surface of the long bones and of some of the flat bones, as the parietal often open into these tubes of the compact tissue, and even into the diploë of the flat bones. The tissue composed of canals, improperly called spongy tissue in the long bones, is a collection of longitudinal canals communicating with each other by minute lateral per-