

more radical side of orthopedic surgery which is developing so rapidly would have been impossible without unduly enlarging the size of the book, and thereby impairing its value as a text-book.

It is stated that while synovial tuberculosis exists in a large majority of the cases the affection arises in the bone. In view of the deaths that have been caused by applying pure carbolic acid to the tissues, we think it would have been wiser to have omitted mention of its use in the operative treatment of hip disease. We doubt the advisability of Bardenheuer's excision of the acetabulum, even as a life-saving measure. We think it would be well to mention multiple cancellous exostosis, probably more common than myositis ossificans. The failure to recommend cod liver oil in rickets should be remedied. We fail to find any mention of the reviewer's method of reducing congenital luxations of the hip by placing the child on its face and pushing the head of the femur into place; thus is our vanity hurt. Nothing is said about the use of outside braces for club feet, perhaps this was intentional, but if so we must dissent. On page 355, fifth line from the bottom, the word "tendon" is used instead of "knife," and on page 203 "Diagnoses" occurs twice in large type.

In conclusion we commend the book thoroughly to the profession, and suggest that every general surgeon secure a copy and read it carefully, as thereby he will acquire a faint idea of what ought to be done for the too many cripples that are still in need of proper treatment.

G. G. D.

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PUERPERAL INFECTION. By ARNOLD W. W. LEA, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.S., Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynecology, the University, Manchester; Surgeon to the Northern Hospital for Women, Manchester. Pp. 384; 23 illustrations and 36 plates. London: Oxford University Press.

It is impossible to do justice to this work without seeming to flatter. No adverse criticism has any place. It is complete in grasp and definite in teaching, and, best of all, it is eminently sane. We believe that the above will be the verdict of those men whose experience has made them competent to form a judgment.

The author opens the work with a most interesting historical review, and then devotes a chapter to the classification of the various forms of sepsis. In accord with present-day teaching he classifies as toxemias all septic processes uncomplicated by deep penetration or blood invasion of organisms, whether or not said organisms are pathogenic or putrefactive.

The third chapter is concerned with the frequency, mortality, and morbidity of sepsis, and if there were nothing else of value to

commend the book, the compilation of this statistical chapter would make it worth while. Unfortunately the general mass of the profession, in whose hands lies the bulk of obstetrics, are prone to belittle both the bitter experience of the past and the scientific testimony of today, and, continuing to worship before the tablet of mercury in a dirty basin of unboiled water, still needlessly jeopardize human lives. This chapter should be read by every man engaged in this branch of medical work. In drawing his conclusions to this chapter the author gives three rules by which puerperal morbidity in obstetrics may be greatly reduced, namely, by the complete disinfection of those attending cases of labor, by efficient disinfection of the external genitalia during labor; by limiting the examinations so far as possible, and by the avoidance of all unnecessary operative interference. It would be well if the second of these rules could be branded upon the conscience of every one engaged in midwifery practice. Consulting experience teaches that there is a passable observance of the first and last of the three rules mentioned above, but that the majority of even intelligent men have no conception of adequate external cleansing, and, therefore, naturally cannot practice it.

The chapters upon bacteriology and etiology are up to date, and will well repay careful reading. Among other interesting questions discussed, perhaps the most interesting is whether pathogenic organisms may be found in the uterine cavity of normal cases at various intervals after delivery, and also that while auto-genetic infection is rare, as a cause of severe sepsis, its occurrence probably explains a number of cases of slight pyrexia in the early puerperium. This whole question is of the greatest interest, but as yet cannot be looked upon as at all definitely settled.

The chapters upon general pathology, pathological anatomy, and the symptoms of sepsis are the result of painstaking care in preparation. It gives particular pleasure to note that the relation between the polymorphonuclear and eosinophile cells is insisted upon as a prognostic sign of value in severe cases.

A separate chapter is devoted to localized infection of the generative tract, and in the next succeeding chapter the prophylaxis of infection is carefully elaborated under three subdivisions, namely, during pregnancy, during labor, and during the puerperium. While there is nothing new in this chapter there is a great deal which should be assimilated and practised, particularly by those men to whom obstetrics is but a small part of their daily work. In speaking of the use of gloves, however, there is one point which cannot be passed without adverse comment, namely, the statement that their use makes it difficult to detach membranes or portions of placenta from the uterine wall. To this the reviewer cannot subscribe, since a little perseverance will enable any one to become as expert with the gloved as with the bare hand. The increased

safety offered by their use in intra-uterine manipulations, which by the way is definitely stated on the succeeding page, should have excluded this objection.

In his consideration of the treatment of infected cases the author lays stress upon the fact that there is no specific, and calls attention to the results obtained by purely expectant handling. Isolation, rest, nutrition, and the use of rubber gloves are insisted upon as general principles.

It is interesting to note that *écouvillonnage*, or the use of the intra-uterine brush, is recommended as a valuable means of cleansing the uterine cavity. Good results from this method are reported by the author, and he claims avoidance of certain dangers inherent in other instruments. He gives a well-considered section on the use of the curette, with careful enumeration of its possibilities for harm, and while here, as elsewhere throughout the book, the judicial, or rather non-partisan attitude, is maintained, it is plain that his opinion is adverse to the curette, in acute cases at least. This is in accord with the view of most competent men of the present day. It is somewhat surprising that the valuable curettement forceps of Emmet is not mentioned, since this instrument is free from the objections rightly urged against the curette, and, theoretically at least, seems preferable to the *écouvillon*.

Readers of this chapter will note with interest that in the treatment of localized pelvic inflammation without suppuration, the Bier method is advocated. The general treatment of infected patients receives adequate attention, and it is interesting to note the unfavorable criticism of alcohol. What a shock the present-day attitude regarding this drug would be to the active men of a generation ago!

A full consideration of the various means to produce leukocytosis, as nuclein, saline solution, and colargol, is given, but, of course, no definite statements are permissible as to their specific value. After a very clear and concise enunciation concerning the much vaunted antistreptococcic sera, the conclusion is reached that their value is at best questionable. The hope is, however, expressed that there will be developments along this line, with better results in the future.

In the chapters upon the operative treatment there is nothing new, but the conservatism is praiseworthy, and we are particularly glad to note this quality in the advice given regarding acute pus tubes and ovarian abscess, and also in the narrow indications admitted for hysterectomy. We can not close this review without again expressing our admiration for the work. It is by far the best book upon this subject as yet published, and should have a wide circulation.

W. R. N.