

to be a perfect a radical one: it can only be palliative. Dr. Leake a celebrated physician now dead, regarded puerperal fever on child bed fever as he called it, one of the most dangerous diseases to which the human female is subject, and as little understood by physicians. The late and much to be lamented Robert Gooch, declared his utter inability to explain some of the most striking and characterizing phenomena of this malady. A host of other distinguished names could be mentioned; but those already will suffice, it being my wish merely to prove that I have substantial authority to sustain me in my assertions, with regard to the disease in question, not being thoroughly understood. I do not wish you to infer from <sup>what</sup> has been said, that I regard the disease as one, concerning whose nature nothing is materially known; and that I consequently propose elucidating every thing connected with it. Far from it. Even were this my design, I would not only fail in the attempt, but would also exhibit the most unblushing presumption. I am aware that puerperal fever has been the subject of much warm discussion and diligent investigation, among able men. I am also aware that there are many able works on the subject. But notwithstanding, I must confess that my mind is not altogether satisfied; and that there are many things pertaining to the disease still involved in obscurity. I shall therefore, with due deference to the opinions of my superiors, give my own views with regard to the disease.