

## Records

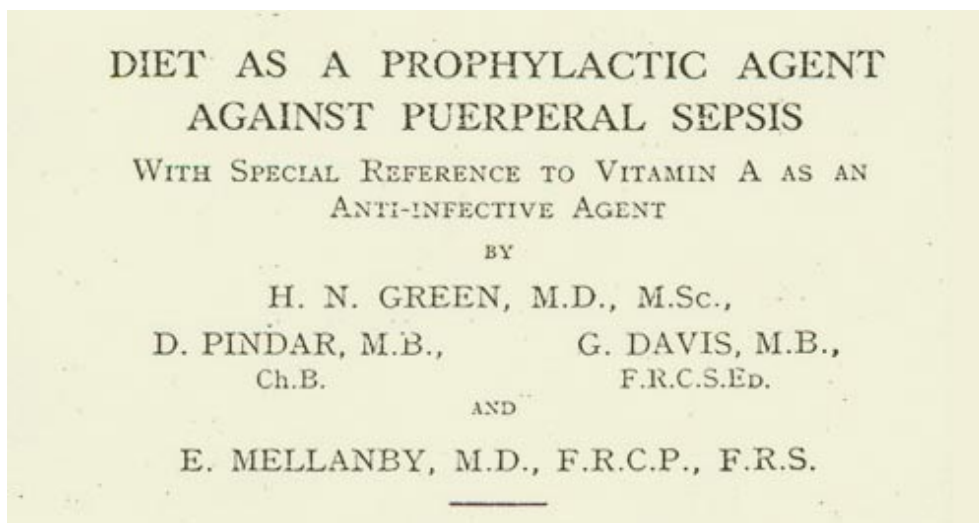
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[Green HN, Pindar D, Davis G, Mellanby E \(1931\)](#). Diet as a prophylactic agent against puerperal sepsis. *BMJ* 2:595-598.

### Key passages



#### METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

About 600 women were involved in the present investigation. All cases not delivered in hospital were rejected from the series, so that a total of 275 women treated with the vitamin preparation and 275 untreated to serve as controls remain for analysis.

Pregnant women attending the ante-natal clinic were instructed to take half a teaspoonful of the preparation daily, commencing one month previous to the calculated day of labour. A fortnight's supply was given at a time. Theoretically, therefore,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of the vitamin preparation radiostoleum, an amount equivalent in vitamins A and D roughly to 30 oz. of a good cod-liver oil, should have been taken during the month. The investigation began in November, 1928. The first seventy-six cases prior to June, 1929, were given the preparation for only fourteen days before delivery. It was, however, continued for the first seven days of the puerperium. It was then decided that a more logical procedure would probably be to begin the administration earlier and thus build up a larger reserve at the time of labour. In these cases none was given after admission to hospital. The cases were in no way selected; the first patient was given the preparation and the next due for delivery about the same time was indexed as a control. The vitamin and control groups were thus equally distributed in point of time; seasonal and epidemic or contagious influences predisposing to infection therefore tend to be equal in the two groups. It was considered that this method would give more uniform conditions than treating random groups of ante-natal patients with the preparation and considering all the remaining untreated ante-natal cases as controls.