

[Boxall, cited in Williams J \(1888\)](#). On the effect of ergot on the involution of the uterus. *BMJ* 1:229.

#### Key passages

### OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, 1838.

JOHN WILLIAMS, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Dr. BOXALL contrasted two series of cases, each referring to 100 patients. Every alternate patient admitted to hospital was given a mixture three times a day, containing ext. ergotæ amm. ꝑxv for a dose, during the first three days of lying-in. To avoid fallacy in the comparisons, the two series of observations were carried on simultaneously. The ergot mixture was given in the first series. In the second its routine administration was omitted, but in the series were included thirty-one patients, for whom, on account of hæmorrhage, severe after-pains, etc., ergot was subsequently prescribed. The results were presented in a tabular form. By contrasting the two series of cases Dr. Boxall concluded: (1) That though the routine administration of ergot during the first three days of the puerperium exercised no appreciable effect on the date at which the lochia ceased (in this respect confirming the observations of the authors of the paper), the practice of giving ergot mixture during the three days following delivery tended to prevent the formation of clots, and to hasten their expulsion and to diminish the frequency, intensity, and duration of after-pains. (2) That if omitted at first, but given after, the ergot mixture tended to promote the expulsion of clots and to relieve after-pains. Dr. Boxall considered that (a) the routine practice, which he had followed, of administering a douche at 110°—115° F. not only immediately after labour, but also twice a day during the puerperium until the lochia ceased (a powerful stimulant to the uterus); (b) the ergot which was given in every case immediately after labour, and (c) the ergot mixture which was prescribed subsequently in thirty-one of the cases included under the second series, all tended to lessen the difference which he had shown to exist between the two, and that in consequence the beneficial effect of the ergot mixture was even greater than that shown by the figures given in the tables.—