

ther instance I was obliged to employ the common style; a tube had been previously used, but was found to become obstructed, and consequently useless, while its presence seemed liable to excite considerable local irritation.

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ART. XXV.—*Successful Treatment of a severe Case of Puerperal Convulsions, supervening on Delivery.* By JOHN GEORGE BETHUNE, M.D.

On the 16th of April last, at about six, p. m., I was called in haste to F. L., the wife of a young farmer in this neighbourhood. From the excited manner of the messenger, I was enabled to ascertain but little further in connection with the nature of the case, than that she had been delivered of a living child by a *sage femme*, half an hour previous, and immediately afterwards had fallen into a fit.

On my arrival, I found the patient, a strong stout young woman, stretched upon a palliasse on the floor, evidently in strong epileptic convulsions. Her head was retracted, and hot to the touch; the muscles of the neck rigid; the face livid, swollen and distorted; the mouth drawn to one side; the eyeballs injected and protruded; the pupils dilated, fixed, and insensible to the flame of a candle when approximated to within an inch of the globe of the eye; grinding of the teeth, foaming at the mouth; the respiration laboured, sibilant, mingled at intervals with a snorting sound, resembling the stertor of apoplexy; the fingers blue and strongly contracted into the palms the hands; jactitation of the body, and particularly of the extremities; the pulse full and slow; torpidity of the vessels of the head and neck, evidencing impeded circulation; the uterus strongly contracted, like a hard ball, above the os pubis.

As no time was to be lost in making inquiries as to the nature of the labour she had undergone, I proceed at once to relieve her by abstracting thirty ounces of blood from the right arm. Her hair having been removed from the upper and posterior parts of the head, cloths steeped in cold water were applied to the bared scalp, and constantly renewed; her feet placed in a warm bath, the body having been previously elevated into a semi-recumbent posture. Mustard frictions were applied to the calves of the legs and inner surface of the thighs, and warm cloths to the abdomen. The blood having been abstracted in a full stream, had a powerful effect in relieving the oppressed circulation, and the pressure on the brain. By a persistence in the use of revulsives, and other means conjoined, the convulsive effects gradually subsided, the surface of the became cool and moist, the temperature of the head natural, the pulse quicker and more regular, and the respiration easier. Gradually she returned to consciousness, stared at the persons assem-