

the respirations were forty-eight per minute ; the pulse, which was said to have been for some time imperceptible, could now be felt beating at the wrist at the rate of one hundred and forty per minute, very small ; the respiratory murmur could be heard over the chest in front and behind ; there was no abnormal sound accompanying the heart's action, but the first sound was muffled ; the legs and the forearms were quite cold ; the lips were livid ; the face was pallid. She endeavoured on one or two occasions to speak, but could only articulate one word at a time. The history of the case and the symptoms seemed to point unmistakably to a coagulum in the pulmonary artery ; and it seemed to us that the treatment should be directed to support the heart's action as much as possible, and this was done by repeated doses of brandy, which with some difficulty were swallowed in soda-water. Five-grain doses, increased to ten grains, of carbonate of ammonia were given at short intervals, and warmth was applied to the extremities. I remained about an hour. The case seemed hopeless. At nine o'clock next morning, however, I found her much relieved. She was able to assume more nearly the horizontal posture ; the extremities were warm ; the breathing was much more easy, and only thirty per minute ; the pulse still very small, 120 per minute ; temperature in the axilla, 97 deg. Fahr. Symptoms of improvement had commenced about four in the morning. Her husband and another medical man, who sat up during the night, believing that the carbonate of ammonia was doing good, had continued its use in increased doses, so that in twelve hours she had taken two hundred and ten grains of it. The stomach tolerated this large quantity in a remarkable manner. "She was a little sick two or three times." The brandy had also been continued, and she had taken a little beef-tea in the early morning. In the evening, she was in much the same condition as in the morning ; frequency of pulse and respiration the same ; temperature only half a degree higher (97.5 deg. Fahr.) She still complained of pain in her chest. During the night some hours of sleep were obtained, and next day she was more comfortable in every respect. The respirations had fallen to from twenty to twenty-five per minute ; temperature, 99 deg. Fahr. ; no abnormal cardiac sound. The strictest rest was maintained. On the sixth day there were some pyrexial symptoms ; and on the seventh she began to suffer from severe sickness. The valuable advice of Dr. Herbert Davies was obtained, and she improved. I saw her again on the twentieth day after labour ; she was still keeping quiet in bed ; and the interruption to convalescence, for which I was desired to see her, was only of a temporary character.