

CASE OF GESTATION PROLONGED TO FIFTEEN MONTHS

Dr. Henderson reported (*Am. Journal of Obstetrics*, April, 1879) the following case in which the duration of pregnancy is said to have been prolonged to fifteen months :

He was called in the latter part of January, 1860, to see a lady about 35 years of age, who was the mother of several children, and quite healthy. Her previous confinements were in no particular remarkable. She had menstruated regularly until the previous December, which period she missed, making the flow in the early part of November the last previous to the time he was called. She had a slight hemorrhage from the uterus, associated with more or less pain in the lower part of the abdomen. The womb upon examination was found enlarged to about the size that we would expect to find it at the period of two or two and a half months' gestation. The patient expressed herself well satisfied that she was pregnant, and feared very much that she would have an abortion. He prescribed sulph. morphia and enjoined rest which soon relieved her.

She continued to develop until about the proper time, when she quickened, which led her to suppose that she would be delivered about the middle of August following. He said that he saw the patient frequently from the time he had been called, and believed from her appearance that she would be confined at about the anticipated time. She, however, continued for a month of more over the expected period, and becoming uneasy again, sent for him. He made an examination and found the uterus to all appearance at the full period of gestation, but the os was not in the least dilated.

The patient said to him that she had felt the movement of the child from the period of quickening up to that time, and that the motion, so far as she could remember, was just the same as in her former pregnancies. She continued in this condition until about the first of November, at which time he made another examination, and found the uterus apparently larger, but in every respect about the same as it was at the last examination.

He now left the patient in the care of another physician, as he expected to be absent for a few months. About the middle of February, 1861, he was sent for again, as both patient and physician were becoming quite uneasy. Before leaving the city, he consulted Prof. M. B. Wright, concerning the case, who expressed himself quite hopefully as to the final result, saying that he had seen cases of prolonged gestation, but that they had all terminated favourably, although he admitted that he had never seen one quite so prolonged as this one seemed to be.

Dr. H. again visited his patient in consultation with the physician with whom he had left the case. Found the patient apparently, in good health, but with the abdomen enormously extended. She had not had labour pains up to this time, which was the 15th of February, 1861, making in all fifteen months since she supposed herself to be pregnant. The os was

considerable dilated and dilatable. A suspensory bandage was improvised and the weight of the abdomen suspended from her shoulders.

In a day or two labour came on, and after a tedious and painful labour, they were compelled to deliver her with the forceps:

The child, weighing *sixteen pounds and a half*, was still born, having evidently died during the labour, as was clearly proven from the fact that the movements of the child were distinctly felt up to within three hours of its delivery.

Dr. H. then said that, although he had given a faithful history of the case, yet he could not help feeling that there would be in the minds of many, if not all, who heard his remarks, serious apprehensions after all that there must have been some mistake about the case. He, however, felt it to be his duty to narrate the circumstances, notwithstanding the serious doubts to which it might give rise.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF PERNICIOUS PROGRESSIVE ANÆMIA.

C. M. Sørensen, Copenhagen ("Allg. med. Centr. Ztg.," No. 54), from observations of eleven cases of progressive excessive oligocythæmia, concludes that the etiology of this always fatal disease is still unknown and mode of origin generally spontaneous. The blood was first examined and found to be pale and transparent. A mixture of blood from such patients with artificial serum was always so pale that from this alone the disease could be diagnosticated. The number of blood-corpuscles counted according to Malassez's method was only one-fourth to one-twelfth of the normal number. As soon as the number had become reduced to about half a million, death ensued; it must, therefore, be assumed that this quantity is necessary for the preservation of life. The red corpuscles were also abnormal as regards size, form, and color. The serum had an alkaline reaction, and did not dissolve the red corpuscles of a healthy subject. The disease developed in a latent manner; in no case could its commencement be determined. The symptoms consisted in gastric derangements, anæmic symptoms, pale-yellowish but icteric color of the skin, a certain *embonpoint* in spite of great debility, bellows murmur over the heart and neck vessels, constant hæmorrhages on the retina, irregular febrile attacks without ascertainable cause. Death was sure to ensue after a longer or shorter course. Of the eleven cases, nine were examined *post mortem*, and the following condition was found: thinness of the blood; granular degeneration of the glandular tissue of the liver, kidneys, and supra-renal capsules, and of the heart; the internal coat of the aorta had undergone fatty degeneration; capillary hæmorrhages were found in the tissues, arising from degeneration of the capillary wall. Aside from lesions ascribable to faulty nutrition and mal-assimilation, no other pathological changes of etiological value were noticed. The above eleven cases were observed in the course of a year and a half in the hospital. Seven of them were men, four