

RESUSCITATION OF A NEW BORN CHILD BY RHYTHMIC TRACTION ON THE TONGUE.*

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Rhythmic traction on the tongue as a means of resuscitating the asphyxiated, especially the drowned, seems to have been first suggested by Laborde, of Paris, in a paper in *Le Bulletin Médicale*, January, 1893. Since then a number of French writers have testified to the value of the method, not only in drowning but in the resuscitation of the new-born and in asphyxia or apparent death from many other causes. Hardly any communications on the subject have appeared from English sources.

I report the following case to bring the method before the notice of the members of the Society.

On Friday, February 1st, I was called to see Mrs. L., who was in labour. The membranes had ruptured and a large quantity of amniotic fluid had drained away. Both feet were presenting in the vagina, and after an unsuccessful attempt to replace them and perform cephalic version, extraction was proceeded with. No difficulty was experienced in delivering the body, but there was a good deal of delay in the birth of the head, the cord having ceased to beat some little time before the head was born. The child, after birth, was limp and cyanotic; artificial respiration, slapping, applications of heat and cold alternately, kept up for about ten minutes failed to cause a respiratory movement, an occasional faint flutter, however, could be felt over the cardiac region.

Rhythmic traction on the tongue was then practiced. The child being placed well over on its right side, the tongue was gently seized by a pair of Pean's forceps and forcibly drawn forward, and then forcibly shoved back, as

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