

looking fresher and more natural than she did the day before, and that there had been no return of the fits.

On Thursday I visited her and found everything going on well, (except that one of the twins had died convulsed a few hours before my arrival). Mrs. C. had had her bowels freely opened by castor oil.

She looked remarkably well, pulse about 100. She had completely wakened out of her lethargic state, had asked for chicken soup. Still the twitching of the left arm continued, and she complained of great weakness; her skin was dry and harsh, for which I ordered sponging with tepid water and vinegar, after which she felt much more comfortable in consequence no doubt of the slight diaphoresis produced.

On Sunday, the 4th inst., I saw her for the last time; all reflex action had now ceased, and she was evidently making rapid progress towards recovery.

Since then, Mr. C. and others have called here and reported always most favorably as regards the mother, but the other child died on Thursday the 8th in the same manner as his brother had done some days previously.

I ought to observe that at each of my visits to Mrs. C., a specimen of urine was obtained and examined, chemically and microscopically, but nothing abnormal could ever be detected.

*Commentary.* This case undoubtedly constitutes an exception to the great general rule that "Puerperal convulsions are intimately connected with diabetes albuminosus or acute Bright's disease."

True, some eminent authorities as Marchal, Liebert, Depaul, Legroux, L'Huillier, Stoltz, Seyfert, Levy & Scanzoni, have assailed the theory of the identity of uræmic intoxication in acute Bright's disease, and puerperal eclampsia, but equally eminent writers as Frerichs, Litzman, Braun, Wieger, Oppolzer, Matthews, Duncan, and many others have, with equal ability, and I think better success, defended this theory, for at the present day it is the generally received view.

The first mentioned authors have endeavoured to prove that the Brightian degenerations of the kidneys, which, it cannot be denied, are found in the bodies of those who have died of eclampsia, are consequences merely of the convulsions only accidental secondary phenomena of the hypercæmia caused by the eclampsia, and of hydrocæmia."

The result of analytical investigations is thus summed up by Scanzoni:

"1. In the most recent times the *post mortem* examinations of persons dying of eclampsia have shown, only in a minority of cases, so profound a degeneration of the kidneys, as to justify the diagnosis of Bright's disease.