

albumen is present and how seldom it is followed by convulsions. On the other hand the long-continued loss of so valuable a constituent of the blood is, I feel sure, responsible for so many of these sudden deaths from obscure causes following child-birth, and which are tabulated under a variety of heads. I recall a case in the country where the woman lost a large quantity of albumen for nearly three months before child-birth in spite of every effort to stop it. Indeed, I have often been disappointed in my efforts in this direction. She went to full time, however, and gave birth to twin children, but so unexpectedly that only a neighbor woman was present. Half an hour after I found her lying in apparent comfort, though with a rapid pulse; ten minutes later she was dead, without the occurrence of any accident, convulsion, hemorrhage, or the like, to account for it.

Quite recently I saw a case with a friend where convulsions had ensued shortly after labor. These were, after a time, completely controlled by morphia, and for several hours she lay quietly resting, when without warning of any kind she suddenly died. These were undoubtedly cases where the integrity of the heart muscle had been weakened by the long-continued drain on the system.

The conclusions that I have arrived at are :

1st. That while in morphia we possess a valuable, perhaps the most valuable, drug for the control of puerperal convulsions, I would not yet be inclined to rely on it in the worst types of the disease with complete suppression of urine and a comatose state between attacks, but would rather have recourse in such cases to every means to promote diaphoresis and the free action of the bowels.

2nd. That it is much less useful in non-albuminous cases than in those where albumen is present, and may even be harmful in such cases.

3rd. That it is of comparatively little value before delivery, chloroform being the drug of election at that time.

4th. That to be efficient it is necessary to use it in large doses, as much as half a grain being borne at such times without any harm resulting.

---

An excellent article by Dr. Wm. Krauss, of Memphis, on "Why I Use Pepto-Mangan "Gude" appears on page 399.