

HÆMORRHAGE IN THE NEW-BORN, WITH AN ILLUSTRATIVE CASE.*

F. A. L. LOCKHART, M. B., EDIN., ETC.

Fellow of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society; late Clinical Assistant in the Gynecological Wards of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—The following is not an attempt at an exhaustive treatise upon the above named subject, but merely a report of a case of rather a rare form of this troublesome condition.

Cases of hæmorrhage from the vagina of female infants, or from the cord, are not at all unfrequently met with, nor is it very rare to observe a newly-born infant vomit a mouthful of blood, but I hope that you will agree with me that the following case is sufficiently unique to warrant my reporting it before this learned assembly, in order that more light may be thrown upon the cause, symptoms and treatment of this form of hæmorrhage in infants.

Case report.—On the night of April 18th, 1892, I was called in to see a patient during her confinement. On arrival, I found that the patient had been in labour for eight hours and a half, and that the waters had come away five hours and a half previously. The pelvis was roomy, but the patient was very fat and flabby and unaccustomed to any exertion, and there was some tendency to anteversion of the uterus. The head presented with the occiput to the left side and anterior, but was large and was retained at the brim. The patient's regular medical attendant and an assistant had attempted to deliver her by means of the ordinary Simpson forceps, but they had slipped several times, so had to be abandoned. We discussed the advisability of turning the foetus, but, before doing so, thought it best to try the effect of axis-traction, so Milne-Murray's axis-traction forceps were applied and the child was extracted with comparatively little exertion. There was no hæmorrhage after the birth of the child and the placenta came away quite readily. This structure, however, was of interest, as the maternal surface was studded with calcareous particles, as was also the case in this patient's previous confinement.

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