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Original Communications.

NOTES ON A CASE OF MELÆNA NEONATORUM.

BY G. T. SMITH, M. D., (EDIN.) MONCTON, N.B.

In reporting this case I have nothing new to offer but will simply give some notes taken at the bed-side. This is undoubtedly a very rare disease, for Hænoch, in his last edition, says, that in his large experience extending over a great many years he has seen but very few cases. There are a great many theories as to the cause of this malady, but my case doesn't throw much light on any of them, except, to show that in this case, at least, the too early tying of the cord was not the cause, as it was an unusually long time before the cord was tied.

The following are some notes taken at the bedside:—

Feb. 18, 1891. Attended Mrs. H., a strong, healthy woman, in her first confinement, labour being rather tedious. I delivered, with forceps, a large and well-developed male child about 1.30

a. m. Both mother and child seemed all right, but the nurse told me in the evening that child seemed to have been in pain all day, and that it had vomited up some dark looking matter towards evening.

Feb. 19. 1.30 a. m., vomited a lot of bright blood. 4. a. m., had a profuse hæmorrhage from anus, bright in color; also, at 11, 1.30 and 4, p. m., had three smaller hæmorrhages from bowels, being dark in color and very offensive. Every motion containing blood was preceded by severe colic-like pains.

Feb. 20. 11 a. m., natural motion followed by some dark blood. Between 6 and 7 had 4 bloody stools, accompanied with great pain; pulse rapid and small, temperature, 98.

Feb. 21. Had 5 motions all containing small amount of blood, also passed good deal of flatus; temp. 97.8; extremities cold and face blanched and pinched looking; one large natural motion.

Feb. 22. Two small motions containing a little bright blood; very cold and collapsed, being kept warm with hot flannels, etc.