

tense chill I ever witnessed, followed by a temperature, taken in axilla, of  $108^{\circ}$ , exhaustive perspiration, pyæmic breath—in short, every evidence of fatal septic poisoning; and so desperate did the conditions seem that I looked for death at any moment. However, an ice cap to the head, sponging with cold water, and, as there was difficulty in swallowing, twenty grains of quinine, ʒi. spirits am. arom., some whisky and milk were given and retained by rectum. These means seemed to revive her somewhat, and apparently made her more comfortable. Life was prolonged for twenty-four hours. During the last two hours, though consciousness was retained, there was evidence of heart failure, and death took place suddenly. No *post mortem*.

Phlebitis of the veins of the lower extremities during the puerperal period may be caused by thrombi forming in the uterine or iliac veins, thereby obstructing the venous circulation, which, owing to the few valves and the excess of the longitudinal over the circular fibres in the walls of the saphenous vein, easily sets up inflammatory action in this vessel. A varicose condition of the veins was a possible factor in this case. A vigilant watch was kept over the heart's action, but, as already stated, no cardiac complication appeared, and the heart, up to the last hour or so, did its work most efficiently.

On two different occasions, before her confinement, excessive use of a sewing machine had inflamed this vein, and not only obliged her to give up work, but even to rest in bed. No mention of this was made during the period of labor, for, as she said afterwards, all the soreness had about gone. It seems very probable that there were still some smouldering embers of the recent inflammatory action that were easily rekindled by the severe straining incidental to parturition.

#### A CASE OF POISONING BY OIL OF TANSY.

BY A. J. HARRINGTON, M.D., TORONTO.

The following case, which occurred in my practice last month, may from its rare occurrence prove interesting. I was called to see a woman who was said to be having fits. I found her lying on the floor in the kitchen. I shook her shoulder, and she looked up stupidly. I got her to arise, which she did in a staggering manner,

and I placed her in a rocking-chair. She was still dazed, and when questioned answered incoherently. I examined her pupils—they were normal; her tongue had not been bitten. During an expiratory effort I fancied there was a peculiar odor from her breath. I asked her what she had been taking; she said nothing. I passed my index finger to the back of pharynx and induced an effort at vomiting, and the odor of tansy was now quite evident. I immediately gave warm mustard drinks, and she vomited about half a pint of fluid, which smelled very strongly of tansy. I then gave her a large tablespoonful of castor oil, and put her to bed, and put her on a stimulating treatment with brandy and white of egg. I found a bottle, after searching for some time through the house, labelled Oil of Tansy, and containing about half a drachm of the liquid. I brought it to the bedside and asked her if she had seen that bottle before; she said no. I then left her, still keeping up the stimulating treatment, and on returning in two hours found her condition much improved. I asked her how much oil of tansy she had taken; she said a teaspoonful. I saw her next day and she was quite well, only complaining of a heaviness in the stomach and bowels. Her story: She had heard that oil of tansy was sure to bring on a miscarriage, so she went to a druggist and he told her it was a good drug for that purpose, and to take five drops for a dose. She took it home and took twenty drops at bedtime, and next morning about six o'clock a teaspoonful, and did not think it bad to take. Just before seven she took a large dose of Epsom salts (very fortunate, indeed), and it operated in about three-quarters of an hour. At about ten she started to go to the back shed for wood, and remembers nothing afterwards until she found herself in her bed. Her neighbor, hearing a little child weeping, had looked over the fence and seen the woman lying on the ground, her hands clenched, and foaming at the mouth. She helped her into the house, when she fell down on the floor, in which position I found her on my first visit. In searching the literature, I find only the following cases recorded by Woodman and Tidy:

(1) *Medical Times and Gazette*—April 13th, 1861. Female, æt. 21. Took strong decoction to secure abortion. Death.