

douche was repeated at this time. The warm current was discharged as before, but upon the communication of the cold stream, she became hysterical, and had to be removed from the bath.

3rd.—Half-past nine, a.m.: Has had a restless night in consequence of pains "all over her" but without any particular uterine pain. The dysuria and pain under the pubes are very troublesome. No appetite. The bowels have not acted for two days. Pulse 95. To take six drachms of castor-oil. Two p.m.: Has had irregular uterine pains since the douche in the morning. I made an examination, and the os uteri could now be felt dilated to the extent of half-a-crown, the fundus uteri being hard and contracted. The bowels have not yet acted. Douche repeated at this time.—Nine p.m.: Had considerable uterine pain for about half an hour after the last visit. Bowels have acted freely, with sickness. Pulse 100. The douche was again repeated, lest the uterine action should remit.

4th.—One a.m.: Mr. Walker was hastily summoned. The patient had suffered powerful expulsive pains, almost without intermission, since the last douche. The head presented in the second position, and about an hour before Mr. Walker's arrival the membranes had ruptured, but only a small quantity of liquor amnii had been discharged. These pains continued with increased vigour, and within half an hour from Mr. Walker's arrival, the child, a girl, was born alive without any assistance. The placenta quickly followed. After the birth of the child, a large quantity of the liquor amnii, which had been pent up behind the head, was discharged. A draught of ether and camphor was given, and she passed a very comfortable night. She had the usual amount of after-pain, and was hysterical on two or three occasions, but recovered perfectly, and both her and the child are now in good health. A little blood was discharged, as usual, after the expulsion of the placenta, but the lochial discharge was more scanty than after natural labour. The secretion of the milk appeared naturally.

Thus, in this case, delivery was accomplished in sixty-four hours from the first application of the douche. But it must be borne in mind that twenty-seven hours elapsed between the first and second application of the douche, otherwise delivery would probably have taken place earlier. Five applications of the douche were made; but from the state of the os uteri, after the fourth application there can be no doubt that labour would have proceeded, even if the fifth douche had not been employed. Before the first application of the douche, there had not been the slightest appearance of uterine disturbance.

The time between the first application of the douche in this case and the completion of delivery, was less than frequently occurs in cases of puncture of the membranes. But it has been objected to the douche, by those who have used it on the continent, that some women are less susceptible of its influence than others, and that the susceptibility of the same woman varies in different pregnancies. I suspect this variation may be obviated by performing the operation, when the time can be selected, at the eighth or ninth catamenial date, and by increasing the energy of the douche by the alteration of the temperature.

In a certain class of cases, it becomes necessary to induce labour before the end of the seventh month; when this is the case, the operation simply has reference to the safety of the mother, the ovum being necessarily sacrificed.

In another class, the operation is not called for until after the completion of the seventh month, and in the great majority of these cases the operation is performed with a view to the safety of both the mother and the child, in consequence of the condition of the mother.

In a third class the operation becomes necessary, in the latter months of pregnancy, to save the life of the child alone, the safety of the mother not being at all involved in the cause of danger to the fœtus, as in diseases of the placenta.

As regards cases requiring the operation before the fifth month, such as excessive and irrepressible vomiting, occurring to such an extent as to