

A CASE OF HETEROTAXIA.

MRS. G., pregnant with her third child, called me on the 13th inst. I found everything normal except that the pulsations in the fontanelle were slow. The first stage of labor was rather slow, but the second was completed in a few minutes. On birth the child did not cry, so I gave it a slap, whereupon it emitted a rather gasping noise. Every effort was made recommended for the treatment of threatened asphyxia, but without avail. The intervals between gasps became longer and finally ceased, but the heart kept on beating strong, at the rate of about 60. Judge of my surprise when I first noticed that the apex beat was manifested on the right side, and not at all on the left. As a last resort I passed a small gum elastic catheter into the trachea, and tried to forcibly inflate the chest, without result. In doing so I noticed that the trachea was very small; it was barely large enough to hold the catheter, which was a very small one. Finally the heart stopped beating and I quit working, but I must have been at it at least half an hour, and very probably longer. I asked permission to perform a post-mortem, which was granted. Here is what I found: Left lung lying right under first piece of sternum, in size about $1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{4}$ inches; right lung a little bigger, lying on the back of the right side of the chest; both solid; thyroid gland larger than either lung, and extending down into the chest over the left lung; heart—a good one—lying in right side of chest, with its axis in the normal direction; stomach, where the heart ought to have been, and the rest of the left side of the chest filled with small intestine right up to the apex; left side of diaphragm represented only by a narrow band across the front, leaving an opening through which the intestines could be moved freely up or down; rest of organs and abdominal cavity apparently normal. Outwardly, the child was normal in every respect, except that I would have thought it not quite mature, but the mother says it was.

P. M. CAMPBELL.