

A. G. STURMER, Lieut.-Col. I.M.S. "Forty-one cases of Puerperal Eclampsia treated by Thyroid Extract." *Jour. of Obstet. and Gyn. of the British Empire.* June, 1904.

The cases reported in this paper were under the author's observation in the Government Maternity Hospital in Madras. The treatment, which was instituted in Sept., 1902, and continued throughout 1903, was as follows:—On admission the patient was given ten grains of thyroid extract, and five grains every four hours afterwards. If the urine was scanty a saline injection of one or two pints was given under the breasts or into the axilla, and a hypodermic injection of morphia gr. ss. was administered and repeated, if necessary, in two hours.

The author states that many of the cases came from long distances, being transported in springless carts over bad roads, and had not infrequently suffered violent treatment at the hands of quacks.

The records of the Madras Maternity as regards Eclampsia are shown in the following table:—

	No. of cases.	Recoveries.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1871	16	9	7	44.4
1881	15	8	7	46.6
1891	23	21	3	13.0
1901	25	14	11	44.0

In 1871 the treatment consisted of 15 minim doses of veratrum viride every quarter of an hour, combined with potassium bromide. When the pulse fell to 60 the former was omitted, but was repeated if it again rose to 100.

In 1881 veratrum was given twice in 60 minim doses at intervals of two hours, and followed by a diaphoretic mixture.

In 1891 the treatment consisted of the administration of large doses of chloral and bromide, with chloroform during the spasms.

In 1901 no chloral or bromide was employed, but morphia in $\frac{1}{2}$ -grain doses at certain intervals combined with salines, chloroform being used as required.

From 1870 to 1903 there were 369 cases of eclampsia treated, with a mortality of 28.7 per cent.

The author always induced labour and terminated as easily and rapidly as possible. The author cannot account for the good results in 1891, which gave a mortality of only 13 per cent. In the 41 cases treated by thyroid, morphia, and salines as above outlined, the mortality was only 12.2 per cent.

The effect of thyroid was to induce a considerable increase in the flow of urine after two or three doses, and by the end of twenty-four hours every case showed a very considerable increase. The saline in-