

of bromide of ethyl in surgery. What aid the accoucheur may obtain from it remains, in great measure, to be seen. Dr. Turnbull claims that, when used in tablespoonful doses when the pains are most intense and distressing, it gave as prompt relief as ether, and yet it did not interfere in the least with the expulsive efforts. The quantity given appears large, and would indicate that it had been administered as chloroform usually is in obstetric cases, largely diluted with air; whereas, in all my surgical cases, I have endeavored save in old persons to have the air excluded as much as possible.

### A CASE OF NERVOUS INFLAMMATORY PUERPERAL FEVER CAUSED BY A VIVID DREAM.

By DR. CASSELS, Three Rivers, P. Q.

Every practitioner who has had any considerable midwifery experience knows how susceptible even the healthiest women are to any untoward influence while convalescing from childbirth; and how, even in those cases where, under the best sanitary conditions, every possible precaution has been taken, a patient will, from an apparently trivial, or perhaps without any obvious cause, suddenly fall into an alarming condition.

In my own experience I have often been puzzled to account for puerperal patients developing dangerous symptoms, and have long been of opinion that mental emotions, particularly dreams, are more important factors in the causation of childbed fever than the generality of the profession give them credit for, although all the standard authorities are unanimous in laying considerable stress on mental emotion as a predisposing cause.

The following is a well-marked case, and I venture to hope will be found of interest as bearing upon what I have above stated.

On April 11, I delivered Mrs. P.— of her second child, a fine boy of about 10 pounds weight. She is a large, healthy, well-made woman, and not in the least nervous or timid. During gestation she was unusually well, and, to use her own words, “ would not have known she was enceinte except by the cessation of her menses, and the gradual increase of size.”

Slight cutting pains came on at about 8 o'clock

p.m., to which she paid scarcely any attention, remarking “ that she did not see why women made such a fuss about childbirth.”

At 12.30. a.m., the os being well dilated, the first bearing down pain ruptured the membranes, and the second brought the child into the world. The placenta followed immediately, and in less than half an hour after the first forcing pain the patient was ready to be left for the night.

Very little blood was lost, and no ergot was given. I literally did nothing but make one examination, when I first arrived, to determine the position, tie the cord when the child was born, and apply her binder.

I have described the labor thus extensively, as I desire to show how much reason I had to anticipate a speedy recovery, more especially as the patient is of the upper class, with every comfort surrounding her.

Up to the following Thursday night she continued exceptionally well, pulse never exceeded 80, no headache or chill, lochia natural and profuse, milk plentiful from first day, bowels moved freely with castor oil the third day, tongue clean, appetite fair but restricted to semi-solids and fluids, slept well.

During this time she never sat up in, or was out of her bed, nor did she see any visitors, in fact she took every precaution in her power, and was a model patient.

On Friday morning I was sent for at 6 a.m., and told that at about 11 o'clock the previous night the household had been aroused by a piercing scream, and that, on rushing to the patient's room they found her trembling with fear, and bathed in perspiration. All night she continued to grow worse, tossing about, and talking wildly.

I found her in the following condition: Skin hot and dry, temperature in axilla 102.5, expression anxious and distressed, cheeks crimson, eyes wild and frightened looking, lochia and milk totally suppressed, considerable tympanites, tongue brown and dry. When spoken to would answer rationally, but if left alone muttered unintelligibly; complained of great pain in the head, and all over abdomen, most acute over right ovary; had not urinated since the previous evening.

On asking her the cause of her fright, she said that she had dreamt that there was an earthquake, that she fancied the house was