tations are most frequently complicated by prolapse, whereas vertex presentations are least threatened.

The fœtal appendages are of secondary and minor importance: undue length of the cord, its marginal insertion, or attachment of the placenta low down in the uterus, can never be direct causes of the accident; excess of liquor amnii is alone to be feared.

Some stress is to be laid on obnormity in shape and position of the womb, much more upon twin births. More dangerous than any of these is the contracted pelvis, which I have proved by measurements and numbers to be the main cause of prolapse of the funis, directly and indirectly; a fact hitherto generally accepted, but never as yet clearly established. Another such vague general statement, that the prolapse is by far more frequent among multiparæ than among primiparæ, our cases disprove; they show that primiparæ are, comparatively speaking, almost as frequently afflicted as multiparæ.

The law governing the location of the prolapse is of importance, and here for the first time touched upon: it will, I trust, be verified by the investigation of other observers.

The post-mortem examinations revealed only the lesions due to death from the asphyxia, nothing characteristic for death caused by prolapse of the cord.

The prognosis we can give is somewhat better than generally allowed; most favourable for foot-presentations, after these for shoulder and transverse presentations, while vertex-presentations are more dangerous than any; the case being, under all circumstances, more threatening when occurring in a primipara.

In the treatment of our cases the high importance of the postural method has been developed, more as an adjuvant, however, than as a method in itself of dealing with the prolapse.

Version is comparatively the most successful of all operations, and should be more frequently resorted to when any choice of method is given, as in head-presentations: the application of the forceps and reposition of the cord are less to be relied upon; but, whatever may be the course determined upon, it must be borne in mind that the success of all operations by which we seek the preservation of the child whose life is threatened by compression of the prolapsed cord is in a measure dependent upon the judicious use of chloroform, its application to full surgical anæsthesia.

SUBACUTE OVARITIS.

E. J. Tilt, M.D.

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The difficulty of correctly diagnosticating ovaritis arises chiefly from thefact that peritonitis obscures the diagnosis by embedding the pelvic organs in a mass which forms, only too often, a hard pathological puzzle. The symptoms may be divided into those known as catamenial and objective.

Although subacute ovaritis may be met with during the whole period of ovarian activity, it is most likely to occur in young unmarried women, from fifteen to twenty years of age, particularly in those who are delicate in body, sensitive in mind, and with proclivities to tubercular disease. When met with in women presenting none of these peculiarities, the patients will be found to have suffered all their lives from menstrual irregularities. Women, suffering from this trouble, complain of habitual pelvic and mammary pain, and especially of a marked aggravation of the nervous symptoms of menstruation, the menstrual flow being usually too abundant, or, as occasionally happens, too scanty. The pain of subacute ovaritis is deep seated, persistent, moderate, bearable, extending from the ovarian region to the knee, and sometimes accompanied by numbness. coldness and anæsthesia of the anterior part of the thigh. The pain gives rise to a certain degree of hesitation in the patient's movements, since she has learned to know that a sudden motion will increase it. Firm pressure on the ovarian region increases the pain and the peculiar nausea which not unfrequently accompanies it. The pain somewhat subsides soon after menstruation, only to reappear, however, a few days before the next period. It is not relieved by a free flow of the menses. Menstruation is preceded and accompanied by a marked aggravation of the usual mammary symptoms of that period, the breasts being swollen, painful and hot. Hysterical phenomena may also be present.

A vaginal examination will often throw a great deal of light on the case, even if it does not finally settle the diagnosis. The left hand should forcibly depress the ovarian region, while the two first fingers of the right hand examine, *per vaginam*, both sides of the body of the uterus. A forcible inclination of the cervix uteri to the side on which the disease is supposed to exist, stretches the connections of the fundus uteri and the ovary to such a degree as greatly to increase the pain. Sometimes the ovary descends into Douglass's pouch, where it can be felt as an ovid body, about two inches long, either more. or less fixed by peritonitis, or fleeing from the finger, only, however, to return, as by a kind of ballottement. This body, when seized, will be found to be semi-elastic and peculiarly sensitive to pressure. A combined rectal and vaginal examination will often be found of great service in making out the diagnosis.

As regards treatment, a well appointed hygienic course for menstrual and inter menstrual periods should be advised, combined with a tonic treatment. Six leeches should be applied to the suspected ovarian region, which should subsequently be painted with oleate of mercury for six weeks, after which counter irritants may be used.

In all cases where uterine disease coexists, it should be carefully treated, since it will be found impossible to relieve an ovaritis while a disease of the uterus is allowed to continue unheeded. In these cases, in addition to the above treatment, an injection should be ordered twice a day of acetate of lead. Not unfrequently, in these cases, marriage will be immediately followed by a severe attack of uterine inflammation.—*Med. and Surgical Journal.*