

## HEMICHOREA IN PREGNANCY CAUSED BY ACUTE RETROFLEXION OF THE GRAVID UTERUS.

AN INTERESTING CASE REPORTED BY DR. F. H. WETMORE, OF HAMPTON, N.B.

*To the Editors of THE MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.*

SIRS,—Chorea is a comparatively rare affection in pregnant women, not more than 80 or 90 cases altogether having been recorded. Judging from these statistics, chorea must be regarded as a very grave complication of pregnancy, the maternal mortality being 30 per cent. and the foetal still higher. But as severe cases only seem to have been reported, it is highly probable that it occurs in milder forms more frequently than the statistics seem to show. Careful reports of mild as well as severe cases would help us greatly in solving the vexed questions of etiology and pathology in this disease.

The chief predisposing causes are hereditary influences and depraved conditions of blood, while violent emotions, acute rheumatism and local genital irritations are commonly set down as the usual exciting causes. Out of 66 cases collected by Barnes and Wenzel, 7 were traceable to violent fright and 7 to rheumatism and endocarditis. In many of the graver cases, an old chorea seems to have been excited into renewed activity, while in the milder forms mental emotion and peripheral irritation were evidently the causative factors. In the non-pregnant, peripheral lesions or cicatricial contractions may set up choreic movements, which subside as soon as the irritating part is excised; so in pregnant women peripheral irritation may be propagated from the uterus to the central organs, and may keep up choreic movements till the cause of irritation is removed. This is well exemplified in a case sent me by Dr. F. H. Wetmore of Hampton, New Brunswick, where an acutely retroflexed uterus was evidently the exciting cause of a chorea which subsided as soon as the cause was removed. The case is interesting on account of the unusual course of the disease. An anæmic, neurotic patient, subject to hysterical fits, bearing family rapidly, with a lacerated cervix and a tender retroflexed uterus, developed