

On arriving, I found the pains recurring about every fifteen minutes and expulsive in character. The os was the size of a dollar and head presenting in the first position. Labor progressed favorably during the subsequent hour and a half, when I observed my patient's face very much swollen, the swelling appearing suddenly. The child's head at this time, twenty minutes before delivery, was forcing my hand on the perineum and required my undivided attention. I merely ordered the neck-band of the night-dress loosened, and immediately after the child was born I examined the patient and found the following condition: The swelling extended from the anterior border of the trapezius muscle on one side to the same position on the opposite, causing the neck to be nearly even with the chin, and vertically from both malar bones downwards to a level with the third or fourth ribs. The skin was normal in appearance, swallowing and breathing were performed with ease, the patient was cheerful and exceptionally well in every respect. On applying my fingers to the swelling, I could feel the peculiar crackling sensation characteristic of emphysema. In fact the patient could distinctly hear it when moving her jaws. This crackling sensation could be distinctly felt over the entire surface of the swelling, but more especially evident in front of the neck, on both sides of the larynx and trachea. I left the case entirely to nature, ordering no special treatment.

On the 27th I visited my patient and found her in about the same state. She had slept well all night, had an excellent appetite, and was very comfortable; the swelling had slightly diminished. This was the first time, in an obstetric experience of nearly 2000 cases, that I had seen a case of the kind. There is no doubt that the air became extravasated into the cellular tissue during the straining of the patient in order to assist nature, although the straining did not appear more than usual, in fact not nearly so severe as I have seen.

I think the case is of sufficient importance to enable us to see in it another danger of advising patients to strain and hold their breath in order to accelerate delivery, a custom very commonly adopted by midwives and nurses, and one that cannot be too strongly condemned. In all ordinary cases, nature asks for all necessary aid by causing involuntary muscular action, rendering voluntary action not only unnecessary but dangerous.

Yours, etc.,

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Chatham, N.B., 28th Feb., 1884.

JOHN R. SMITH, M.D., HARROWSMITH, ONT.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—When a member of our profession dies, the least we can do in the way of respect for his memory is to honor him with an obituary notice. In our profession, honors do not crowd "thick and fast" upon any of its members; there are no salaried sinecures to which we can look for an appointment; there are no hopes of being pensioned off with a comfortable living when age has stiffened the limbs and dulled the faculties, or when overwork has forestalled the ruthless hand of time. The hard and honest toilers amidst disease and death, who in the darkness and the daylight, through summer's heat and winter's cold, never refuse to face all weathers, and who, in the rude cabins of the humble as well as in the more comfortable abodes of the well-to-do, labor on, and worry, and wear themselves with suffering, that others may suffer less; have no peculiar social privileges or public distinctions. Wealth is a prize that few if any can ever attain, and the "otium cum dignitate" that is often the dream of youth, flies before them, as the rainbow that covered the cup of gold, fled from its pursuer. For the vast majority of medical men the song must be:

Labor on, labor on! there'll be resting by and bye,  
When life's short day is done, and head and hands shall lie  
Where the tomb its quiet shelter o'er us throws,  
And no waking ever breaks our long repose."

Dr. Smith was one of the toilers who labored on, and labored more than others might suffer less, and who looked for no greater testimonial to his worth than the plaudit of "Well done, faithful servant," and no monument more honorable than a memorial thought deeply engraved upon each of the many hearts from which he had lifted the burden of sorrow. He was born at Ormiston, in Scotland, in the year 1831, and in his youth came thence with his parents to Kingston, Ont. Of his early life I know nothing, having first become acquainted with him during my college days at good old Queen's University in this city. For several years past I have been acquainted with various members of his family and they belong to that class of persons whom to know is to love; they are true representatives of that type of "Auld Scotia's" sons, who look upon an honest man as the noblest work of God. In 1863 he graduated