

Dominion Medical Monthly

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

(No paper published or to be published elsewhere as original, will be accepted in this department.)

A CASE OF SYMPHYSIOTOMY IN NARROW PELVIS—RECOVERY OF MOTHER AND CHILD.

BY DR. J. H. BURNS AND DR. A. B. ATHERTON, TORONTO.

As the case we are about to report is, so far as we can ascertain, the first that has been successfully attempted and carried out in the Province of Ontario, of delivering the child by division of the symphysis pubis, it appears worthy of being recorded.

A great deal of attention has been given to this subject in the past year, and as cases have been collected with considerable care by Harris, of Philadelphia, and others, we shall not allude to more than the particular instance with which we have had to deal.

Mrs. E., primipara, in her thirty-fourth year, considerably below middle height—about four feet six inches—and small in proportion, but without deformity of any kind, and with an excellent personal and family history, was taken, at full time, with very light labour pains about midnight on the 28th of June last. Very shortly afterwards the membranes ruptured, and a large quantity of liquor amnii escaped.

When first seen, ten hours afterwards, the os uteri barely admitted the finger tip. Examination revealed the head in the first position. During the following day, the 29th, the pains increased in frequency and severity, but there was no alteration in the position of the child, and no dilatation of the os.

The measurements of the pelvic canal appeared by manual examination to be normal, except the conjugate, which was less than three inches. These measurements were estimated. During the night of the 29th, a hypodermic injection of morphia, gr. $\frac{1}{6}$, was given, which in the course of a few hours produced a lessening of the rigidity of the os. On the morning of the 30th, about five o'clock, the patient being chloroformed deeply, there was sufficient dilatation to readily admit the application of the forceps, which grasped the head favourably. Traction was made for some time, long enough to satisfy us that delivery by this means could not be accomplished with safety, when, the child being found