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## *Original Communications.*

### A REMARKABLE CASE IN OBSTETRIC PRACTICE.

By T. A. RODGER, M.D., Chief Medical Officer Grand Trunk Railway.

Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Oct. 23rd, 1883.

The case which I purpose bringing to your notice to-night is one which has recently occurred in my obstetric practice, and as it presents to my mind one or two rather unusual features I thought I should like to hear an opinion expressed upon it by the members present. Though a great deal of the work of an Obstetrician must necessarily be of a routine character, still, nevertheless, occasionally, there are to be found cases which arrest attention and relieve that monotony.

Such an one came into my hands on the tenth of October, the patient, aged 32 years, being pregnant for the fourth time. I was present at the birth of all the former children, and found nothing unusual. The history of the case, which is brief, is as follows. On the morning of the tenth of October I was requested to visit a Mrs. L., whom it was said had been ill all night with great difficulty of breathing. I found the patient in bed, half sitting, half reclining on her side, and propped up with pillows. Her countenance was somewhat anxious, face slightly livid, eyes staring, breathing

very hurried and short, and complaining of great tightness about the chest and abdomen, with a sense of suffocation.

This being my first visit to this patient at this time, and not thinking that she was pregnant, I at once examined her chest, found heart and lungs normal, but was struck with the size of the abdomen. Her feet and legs were somewhat œdematous, but no great amount of swelling at the vulva. There had been slight pains at long intervals all night, but the patient said "not like labor pains," though she thought that she ought to have been confined some time during the month of September, having, as far as she can recollect, menstruated for the last time about the beginning of the year.

The size of the abdomen being so much out of proportion to any thing I had ever witnessed before, I began questioning as to her condition for some time back.

She told me that nothing out of the way was noticeable in the size of her abdomen until between the sixth and seventh month; that never at any time could she say that she felt any distinct movement of the child, such as experienced with her other children; that she had suffered considerable at different times from irritability of the stomach, in fact, had often great difficulty in retaining food. A vaginal examination revealed the os to be high up, dilated about an inch, edges tense but thin, membranes entire,