

bral arteries or capillaries.” In this way a clot formed in the right heart might break up, and minute particles carried through the capillaries of the lungs and eventually lodge in the capillaries of the brain, the capillaries of the brain, as is well known, being of very minute size.

If in these cases of embolism there is no heart disease, no history of chorea or rheumatism, and no disease of the blood vessels it is probable that the blood was clotted in the cavities of the heart, and minute particles of this clot were carried into the circulation and blocked up one of the arteries of the brain, so the middle cerebral cases of second attack after recovery are reported. Sir James Simpson* relates one in which the woman recovered from the first attack, bore two more children, and during her third pregnancy had a second attack and died. There was no clot forming in the branches of the middle cerebral, but the corpus striatum of left side contained a cavity. Sir James says that from the time that had elapsed between the hemiplegia and the heaviest attack, possibly the clot had been absorbed. These attacks of embolism may occur during pregnancy or after labour. The earliest cases was the 7th month† of pregnancy, and the latest seven weeks‡ after labour.

RETENTION OF THE PLACENTA.—Mr. DAVIES reports in the *British Medical Journal* that about sixteen years ago, Mrs. G. arrived in London, and was seized with pains and threatened premature birth in six months. I ordered perfect rest, etc., and matters went on comfortably for a few days, when the foetus was expelled. The funis was torn off short at the os, which was rigidly contracted; and I determined not to interfere. During the whole time of retention, I was kept in constant anxiety, as periodical flooding came on; and on one occasion, I took the late Dr. Cape of Curzon Street, Mayfair, with me in consultation. After examination we agreed nothing could be done, but wait patiently. On the nineteenth day the placenta was expelled in a perfectly healthy condition without a sign of putrefaction.

* “Edinburgh Medical Journal,” vol. vii.

† Loc. Cit. p. 1085.

‡ Obstetrical Society's Transactions, vol. iv.