

Case No. 3 was also, I believe, a case of embolism, the emboli being derived from the pelvic veins, and no doubt due to septic infection. The time at which obstruction to the pulmonary artery is liable to occur is of some interest. Playfair says that when the accident occurs before the nineteenth day, it is generally thrombosis, when after that time emboli. Dr. Fordyce, in the "Encyclopedia Medica," says that embolism seldom occurs before the end of the second week. I have been able to collect the history of fifteen cases occurring after confinement; of these seven are reported to be due to thrombosis, and occurred one, seven, nine, ten, eleven, twelve and fourteen days after delivery. Eight are reported as due to embolism and occurred three-quarters of an hour, four, four, six, seven, fourteen, twenty-four and seventy days after delivery. Of my own cases, the case of thrombosis occurred twenty-four days after delivery, and those of embolism sixteen and thirty-six days after. A question of some interest arising out of the cases I have narrated is the formation of an infarct, a necessary sequence of obstruction of the pulmonary artery or its branches. In both my cases which survived the first attack, no physical signs could be detected in the lungs. Case No. 1 gave absolutely no evidence either by physical examination or subjective symptoms. In case No. 2, considerable pain was complained of in the left side posteriorly, cough already referred to was a troublesome symptom, but there was no expectoration, and only a small amount of frothy mucus. A physical examination gave negative results. The temperature, which ran between 100 and 102 for a week or more, might have been caused by the accompanying phlebitis in the vein of the left leg. The collateral circulation in the lungs through the numerous pulmonary capillaries, and with the bronchial mediastinal arteries, is so abundant, that in occlusion of the medium-sized or smaller vessels, the vitality of the parts is sustained if otherwise healthy. Infarction is most likely to occur in cases complicated by mitral insufficiency or fatty heart, where chronic congestion of the lungs exists. Welch says that the majority of cases of thrombosis and embolism of the pulmonary artery present no evidence of infarct. Newton Pitt places infarct following occlusion of pulmonary artery as occurring in less than one-third of the cases, but Prof. Anfrecht, in "Noethnegal System of Medicine," says that, in his opinion, infarction follows most cases of embolism of medium-sized arteries.

*Treatment.*—I should like to add just a few words as to treatment. In those cases where the main artery, or a large branch,