

THE

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## Original Communications.

### PLACENTA PREVIA.

BY E. G. EDWARDS, M.D., LONDON.

(Read at Meeting of Ontario Medical Association.)

Unavoidable hemorrhage is admitted, I believe, by all to be due to the attachment of the placenta over part, or all, of the os uteri, partial detachment of the same causing the hemorrhage.

Accidental hemorrhage, on the other hand, occurs from placental detachment of a normally situated placenta.

I have met with seven complete cases of placenta previa extending over a practice of thirty years. Out of these seven cases I will dismiss one very summarily, that case having been my own sister:—

I was sent for a distance of about twenty-five miles to see her, but on my arrival she was dead. The doctor who was in attendance had not succeeded in arresting the hemorrhage, from which she died undelivered, near the full term of gestation.

Of the remaining six cases all the mothers recovered. Two of the children were born alive and four dead.

CASE I. Fourth labor; called a distance of six miles to this case. On my arrival, learned that she had had previous floodings within a short time of each other. The doctor who was called at those times could not be found in this instance. Examination revealed placenta covering the os. I separated the placenta as

far as I could from around the os with my index finger. In doing so, succeeded in getting it completely detached from the os. As the os was very dilatable I succeeded in making a diagnosis of head presentation, and, as labor was in progress, I gave ergot and ruptured the membranes. Child soon born alive by natural uterine efforts; mother made a good recovery.

CASE II. Was called upon about 6 p.m. by husband, who told me that his wife had a severe flooding without any known cause, and without any pain. He said that she was in the family-way about, he thought, eight months with first child. Owing to another engagement preventing my going immediately, I instructed him to hurry home and place her in the recumbent position, and keep her head low, and give her cool drinks, and to report at once if the hemorrhage continued. About six hours after he returned, saying, "My wife is bleeding to death," and to hurry as quickly as possible. Upon reaching her, she was truly in a most dangerous condition from loss of blood—pulse almost imperceptible—in short, she appeared dying. Having lowered her head still more, opened the door and windows, then gave 20 drops of laudanum in a little hot water and whiskey. On examination found placenta completely covering the os. I immediately cleaned out the vagina from clots and then plugged. Ordered hot milk and chicken tea to be speedily prepared and given. After she had somewhat rallied, gave her 2½ grains of opium. I did this in consequence of great restlessness and irregular uterine pains, she being, as I