

REMARKS.

Now, of what nature was this case? Certainly there was induration of the cervix uteri and os tincae, which kept the blood blocked up.

If I had not been so delicate and had made an examination, the induration would have been recognized, removed, and the reappearance of the menses would have been the consequence. It was a case of retention of the menstrual blood which, no doubt, at each monthly period, was furnished by the uterus, and made the abdomen gradually increase in volume. As to the viscid fluid mixed with the blood, it was the serum of the blood, which, by being retained in utero, became a little more thickened and produced the viscosity. This fluid might also have contained fibrin, which, as we now know, is given out at each monthly period, and separated from the arterialised blood.

An hydatid, it could not be, since it was not water alone which flew from the uterus, but also because hydatids take a longer time to form such a mass as to impose for pregnancy.

I submit the above case to the reflection of my fellow-practitioners. I have given all the circumstances of the case to show how much a physician, from the youngest to the oldest, must be on his guard before he does give a decided opinion.

I will now illustrate the foregoing remarks by a few cases which have happened, and are a warning against the presumption of deciding too hastily.

1. A German Princess, advanced in years, had arrived at the term of the cessation of the menstruation. The uterus and breast were enlarging daily. She consulted her physician, an accoucheur, and others. They all thought her pregnant, and all the preparations for delivery were made. She passed an enormous quantity of water per vaginam, and the uterus instantly recovered its normal state. The above case is taken from the work of the celebrated P. Frank.

2. I was summoned in consultation, seven years ago, to see a woman, 42 years of age, who had such an enormous abdomen that any one, not professional, could only believe that a tumour was the cause of its appearance. Many medical men had been called before, and some of them pronounced her pregnant. She, however, menstruated periodically. She had been married many years to a first husband from whom she had no children. She married a second time, when 39, to a young man, most robust and athletic, and expected, in finding her abdomen increasing, to become a mother. However, her expectations have not been realised until now, for she is yet living and enjoying good health, with her abdomen as large as ever, and not a mother. When called, I made a minute examination, and concluded, from the history of the case, that an hydatid was the cause of the present state of the abdomen.