

of cystitis in the gynæcological wards of the Mater Misericordiæ Hospital, Dublin, consists firstly in the full dilatation of the urethral canal with the instrument exhibited, so as to paralyze the contractility of the sphincter vesicæ, and thus produce a temporary incontinence of urine; and, secondly, in the direct application through the same instrument of glycerin of carbolic acid to the diseased endovesical mucous membrane. I may add that any pain thus caused may be prevented by the previous topical application of a solution of cocaine, and that the procedure recommended seldom requires to be repeated more than once or twice at intervals of a week or ten days; and, combined with the internal use of boric acid, rarely fails to effect a cure in any ordinary case of cystitis.—*New York Med. Jour.*

“TWIN PREGNANCY—HYDRAMNIOS—TAPPING—CURE.” PHOCAS, LILLE.—*Annales de Gynécologie, et d'Obstétrique*, May, 1890.

Hydramnios is said to be a rare affection, and its diagnosis is often embarrassing. The symptoms of pregnancy may be masked by the development of the amniotic liquid, and the case present all the characters of a monocystic tumor of the ovary. Incidental reference is made to a case under the care of Tillaux, in which the only sign which made exact diagnosis possible was the slight rhythmical contractions of the uterus. The author's case was that of a woman who had hitherto been always healthy. She had gone through three normal labors, the last about ten months before she came under the care of Phocas. It was eight months since she menstruated, and she believed herself to be pregnant, the movements of the child having been felt about four months after the arrest of menstruation. When everything appeared to be normal, the woman's abdomen suddenly began to enlarge rapidly. Her legs began to swell, and she experienced difficulty in breathing. When Phocas saw her, about three weeks after the first symptoms were observed, he found her emaciated and pale, with drawn features. Her respiration was embarrassed, and the legs were swollen. The abdomen was enormously distended, and apparently more so to the right than to the left. The skin was stretched, and its venation

marked. The distance between pubes and umbilicus was greater than between umbilicus and xiphoid cartilage. The tumor extended to behind the lower end of the sternum, and its superior boundary could not be mapped out because of the tenseness of the skin. The tumor was of uniform consistence, it was slightly depressible, and no foetal parts could be made out. Percussion elicited a dull note everywhere except just below the xiphoid cartilage and in the flanks, and these limits persisted after changing the patient's position; nothing was learned by auscultation, no foetal movement, no souffle; the os was partially dilated, and movements of the vaginal portion appeared to be conveyed to some extent to the tumor. The diagnosis hesitated between simple cyst of the ovary and hydramnios, with a leaning towards the former, in spite of the signs of pregnancy enumerated. It was resolved to tap. While the fluid was being drawn off, a distinct intermittent hardening was felt in the tumor, and this hardening coincided with an arrest of the flow through the trocar. “The uterus alone could be the seat of such contractions; my trocar was in the womb. I evacuated about four litres of the fluid, and let the rest remain. The patient was greatly relieved. So much was her condition ameliorated that I had all the trouble in the world to make her stay in bed for three days.” Five weeks later the patient was delivered of twins—one living, and one that had been dead for some time. Among his other reflections on the case, Phocas is disposed to conclude that tapping is the best treatment for hydramnios.

“EXPERIMENT WITH A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE INDUCTION OF PREMATURE LABOR.” PROCHOWNICK, HAMBURG.—*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, No. 33, 1889.

Considering the danger to the mother involved still in the methods of bringing on labor, and the uncertain prospects both as regards the life and the health of the child, Prochownick resolved to try an experiment by dieting in a suitable case, about which he was consulted in 1887. The woman had been confined already four times—once with perforation, once with turning, and twice by induction of labor prematurely. The children had all died.