

CASE OF SUPERNUMERARY BREASTS.

By J. HERBERT DAREY, M.A., M.D.,
OF GRANGER, MINNESOTA.

I was summoned on December 2nd, 1889, to attend Mrs. D., who was at the time in labor with her sixth child. She had had four living children and one born dead at full term. Nothing of any importance occurred with regard to any of her previous labors. I found, on examination, the os moderately dilated and the membranes unruptured. After waiting some time till the os was fully dilated, I ruptured the membranes and she was shortly delivered of a healthy male child. She informed me of a peculiarity in her organization which had caused her a great deal of trouble during each pregnancy and for some time after delivery, viz., the existence of an extra breast in each axilla, which secreted milk very freely and were very hard to dry up. For the latter portion of each period of pregnancy these extra breasts would increase in size, the same as the normal ones, and cause her great distress and discomfort by pressing on the brachial plexus and the axillary vein, causing the arms to swell up. The only way she could get any rest at all at nights was to lie flat on her back, with the arms stretched away out from the sides. If she attempted to lie on either side the gland crowded on the plexus of nerves would cause her such excruciating pain that she could not stand it. During lactation the extra breasts would secrete very freely and wet her night-clothing completely in the course of the night, thus rendering her very uncomfortable.

On examination, I found two normal mammæ in the natural situation ; and in addition, in each axilla, a mamma as large as a medium-sized lemon, with a distinct areola, but no nipple at all. The ducts opened in the areola, of course, or no milk could flow out. The hair of the axilla grew over these extra glands. The glands were freely movable under the skin, and had the ordinary consistence of the normal breast. There was no connection whatever between the normal breasts and the supernumerary ones. I advised her to get a breast pump for the two extra breasts, as she said she had never used one : but she in-