

Clinical Reports

Contributions are solicited for this department

ANENOEPHALUS.

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Miss M. C., domestic, first presented herself for examination as to pregnancy in May, 1897, stating she had missed one menstruation period, and that she would be pleased to be returned to her normal condition. She was counselled to proceed to full term, which advice she very judiciously followed. After pursuing her domestic duties up to the middle of December, she removed to a maternity home, where she was delivered of an anencephalic monster on January 17th, 1898. Labor had been in progress fully twenty-four hours before she informed the nurse of her condition, and even after the rupture of the membranes and subsequent flow of waters, she had not thought fit to inform the attendant of the fact. It was only when the pains became severe that the nurse was instructed to call the physician. Abdominal palpation was first practised, and information gained that no solid body such as the head could be felt. On passing the finger into the vagina it first impinged on a kneec, which proved to be the right one. Further up and backwards, the left was next felt, and proceeding in the examination, the heels were found in close contact with the buttocks. The diagnosis revealed that the abdomen of the foetus was lying behind the left groin, and on passing the examining finger in this direction a soft piece of tissue was felt, which imparted sensation to the finger as though it were a piece of placenta. It was thought this might be the case, as there was considerable hemorrhage, more, in fact, than the attending physician had ever before experienced in normal labors. A portion of the cord could be felt far back, and, as there was no pulsation, the patient and nurse were advised to expect a still-birth. The feet were liberated and brought without the vulva, then the hands were palpated lying in either groin. They seemed rather large, but no suspicion aroused as to the true nature of the case. The buttocks were quite large, and occupied a good deal of time in their passage. After the birth of the buttocks, the whole foetus was immediately expelled, when it was noticed that the product of conception was a "frog" fetus—an anencephalic monster. There was a defect in closure of the abdomen around the umbilicus to the extent of two by three inches, which accounted for the peculiar body felt by the examining finger behind the left groin. There was also double talipes varus.