

Selected Articles

"DUHRSSSEN SCNITT" OR VAGINAL CESAREAN, SECTION IN THE TREATMENT OF PUER- PERAL CONVULSIONS AND THE RE- PORT OF A SUCCESSFUL CASE.

BY HERMAN E. HAYD M.D., M.R.C.S. ENG. BUFFALO, N.Y.

The following instructive case is contributed to the literature of the management of puerperal convulsions.

August 13th, 1906, I was called to see Mrs. Edith K., *primipara*, *act.* twenty-three, who was in convulsions, and I found in attendance Drs. Allen and Baker of Williamsville, N.Y. The first convulsion occurred at six A.M., and she had had seven up to two P.M. Large doses of *tinct. veratrum viridi* had been administered and half grain doses of *codeia* hypodermically. She had also taken five drops of *croton* oil by mouth in solution with olive oil.

After cleansing the vagina and giving a bichloride douche, a vaginal examination was made, when it was found that the os was hard, but slightly dilated and admitted one finger, and there was also a show of blood. An attempt was made to forcibly dilate the cervix, but this was at once abandoned, not only because it was impossible to make any impression upon the tissues, but the irritation immediately brought on a terrific convulsion. A second convulsion occurred in about half an hour and it was then decided to remove the patient to the German Deaconess's Hospital for operation. The baby was alive, as was made out by stethoscopic examination over the bare skin, the heart beats being strong, and the term of pregnancy about eight and a half months. While in the ambulance en route to the hospital the patient had two more seizures. She reached the hospital about five-thirty P.M., and was at once taken to the operating room and prepared for operation.

Chloroform was administered, the bladder was emptied and the urine quickly examined, which was found to be nearly solid by the heat and nitric acid test. After shaving and scrubbing the parts thoroughly, the cervix was seized by two *volsellum* forceps and pulled well down into the vagina, and with a scissors a long anterior incision was made up to the vault. A transverse cut