

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

REPORT OF TWO CASES OF SEXUAL PRECOSITY:

ONE IN A GIRL OF SIX YEARS, THE OTHER IN A BOY WHO HAD PUBIC HAIR AT FIVE MONTHS, ERECTIONS A YEAR LATER, AND EMISSIONS AT TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS.*

By HENRY T. MACHELL, M.D.,

Associate Professor Pædiatrics, University of Toronto; Physician Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto.

CASES of precocious menstruation are so infrequent that I am tempted to report this one.

The case occurred in the practice of W. J. Corrigan, Wychwood Park, Toronto, to whom I am indebted for the history.

Family history:—Her mother, 30 years of age, was born in England, started to menstruate when 17 years old, menstruation lasting 3 or 4 days. The mother has 6 sisters, none of whom menstruated early. The maternal grandmother bore a child when 49. The father is 34, above the average physically and mentally. He has 5 brothers and 5 sisters; the latter are all large, but menstruated at usual time.

R. B., born October, 1902, normal labour first child, breast fed, had 4 teeth at 4 months. Her height now is 4 feet 3 inches, the normal for a girl being 3 feet 9¾ inches. Weight unobtainable.

She is perfect in form and well featured, hair light brown, eyes grey, and is precocious in many ways. She started to menstruate Dec. 28, 1908, thus being 6 years and 2 months old. Menstruation continued for one week. Her mother thinks she lost quite as much as she herself does. When the flow first came on the mother thought the child had been hurt, as she spoke of a fall. Menstruation was ushered in by low spirits, nervousness and tiredness.

She has menstruated for one week each month during December, 1908, to the following August, 1909. She missed September, and was unwell for one day in October, when these memoranda were handed me.

Each month she complains of pains in the breasts and legs, and has headache.

The appetite is enormous, the bowels are regular.

In disposition she is very loving and passionately fond of children.

Physical examination shows that the breasts resemble those of a girl of 12 or 14 years. The pubes has considerable hair. The vagina admits the little finger easily, uterus fair size, ovaries not palpable.

I have never seen a child who menstruated as early as 6 years and 2 months. Clifton Edgar cites Montanaire's case of a child of less than 6 months old, very large and with well developed breasts and also the

*Read at the Section Pædiatrics, Academy of Medicine, Toronto.