

# Clinical Notes.

## NOTES OF CASE OF ALBUMINURIA COMPLICATING PREGNANCY.\*

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Elizabeth P., Canadian, aged 21, fair complexion and red hair. Admitted to the General Hospital on September 29th, 1898. When admitted she could scarcely walk, was very pale, and suffered from dyspnea. Had to be carried upstairs. Her whole body was edematous from her feet to her hair. The limbs were three times their natural size, but the edema was most marked in her breasts, abdominal walls, and face. It was the worst case of general anasarca I ever saw. She had a large goitre as big as two fists, which she said commenced over a year ago, and which increased rapidly after she became pregnant. She was about seven months pregnant when admitted.

The urine was scanty, about fifteen ounces in the twenty-four hours, cloudy, acid, specific gravity 1026, became nearly solid with albumen when boiled; epithelial casts were also present: severe headache and insomnia were prominent symptoms.

The patient was confined to bed, put on milk diet, a hot bath every day, with full doses of the tincture of iron, combined with small doses of arsenic. Pill rhei comp. was used to procure daily motions of the bowels. This line of treatment was continued for two weeks, when the patient had improved so much as to be allowed to leave her bed, the iron mixture being still continued. By this time the edema had disappeared, except in the breasts, in which it remained till after her confinement.

From October 14th until November 14th, a period of one month, she was up around in the daytime, was quiet and inclined to brood over her trouble, but was fairly comfortable. During this time she was allowed milk, broths, beef-tea, custards, bread puddings, etc. The urine remained scanty, however, with high specific gravity, and about one-fourth albumen. She was unable to sleep well, and a dry hacking cough caused her a great deal of annoyance, and the least exertion tired her out.

On the morning of November 14th she exhibited well-marked symptoms of Bell's paralysis of the face—left side: the next day one of the oblique muscles of the eye was affected, and she had double vision—all, as I take it, toxic in origin. The edema now began to show itself again; frequent micturition

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\* Read at December meeting of London Medical Association.