

## SYPHILITIC FEVER OCCURRING AS A COMPLICATION IN A MATERNITY CASE.

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In commenting on Dr. Fitcher's paper (which appeared in the *New York Medical Journal* of June 22nd, 1901, and is reproduced in the present issue of THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER), the *Lancet* (July 27th, 1901) remarks that "in syphilis, fever of such degree as to attract attention seldom occurs, but the subject is well worthy of investigation." The following case, which occurred in the "Burnside" department of Toronto General Hospital, under care of Dr. A. H. Wright, is interesting in this connection.

A. K., aged seventeen years.

At the onset of labor, July 17th, 1901, six o'clock p.m., the head nurse reported a sore (of which the patient had never before complained) upon the inner aspect of the right labium minus. On examination, this sore was found to be much inflamed and indurated, about two inches in length and one inch broad, with a central ulcer of characteristic appearance. The head pressed on the perineum at about 8.15 p.m., and remained there one and one-half hours.

Acting under instructions from Dr. K. C. McIlwraith, the house surgeon in charge applied axis-traction forceps and delivered the child at 9.45 p.m., no laceration occurring.

The accompanying copy of the "Burnside" chart shows the temperature and indicates the involution of the uterus. Thus the position of the umbilicus  $\odot$  is five and one-fifth inches (thirteen centimetres) above the symphysis pubis, and the fundus uteri on the fourth day was four inches (ten centimetres) above the symphysis.

No explanation of the high temperature suggested itself, except that it was due to syphilitic infection, and the patient gave a history which supported this view.

The infant was resuscitated with difficulty by the Sylvester method. Hot and cold water were also used. Repeated hemorrhages from the cord were finally controlled by the application of collodion and acetanilid. Weight of infant at birth, six and one-half pounds. The mother made an excellent recovery, reporting herself on September 4th as quite well and strong. The infant was quite well on leaving the "Burnside," but the