

Post Partum Hæmorrhage.—Dr. Osterloh.

Ætiology.—The great cause of this hæmorrhage is the incomplete contraction of the uterus. After labour the uterus feels soft and large instead of hard and round. Among 289 cases of incomplete contraction of the uterus, 150 occurred in primiparæ. The age of the primipara has no effect in the hæmorrhage. Injury or tearing of the uterus is observed more in the abnormally rapid, or very protracted labour, in cases where the liquor amnii is deficient, and where the child is large. Sometimes the contraction of the uterus is retarded by some of the membranes, or part of the placenta remaining in the uterus, contraction may be also hindered by a full bladder; in these cases the removal of the causes produces contraction and cessation of the bleeding. In 69 of these 289 cases the labours were of long duration. Forceps were applied in 8.6 per cent.

The second great cause of hæmorrhage is due to injury of the soft parts from rigidity of the passages, &c., or as the result of an operation. In 20 cases hæmorrhage due to injury was observed, one case of rupture of the walls of the uterus, one case of tearing of the cervix, four cases of tearing of the vagina, and fourteen cases of tearing of the vulva. There were 153 cases of late bleeding from the first to the eighth day or later, due to tardy involution of the uterus. Several of the cases were due to previous severe flooding, and slight after contraction of the uterus; in other cases, it was due indirectly to retention of membranes, or part of placenta, inflammation of the mucous membrane of the uterus, &c. In many cases the reason of the bleeding was not apparent.

Symptoms.—Among the local symptoms the condition of the uterus is most important. If the uterus the day after labour is painful on movement and very hard to the feel, this condition is probably due to blood clot or retained membranes.

The *Diagnosis* is not so difficult if one carefully examines the body and passages. If blood comes from the uterus it would of course be on the plug, and by means of the speculum the bleeding point may be easily made out.

The *Prognosis* of hæmorrhage is generally favorable, only in one case did death occur, and this on the eleventh day; it was