

Original Communications.

A Case, under the care of Prof. E. H. Trenholme, of Apoplexy in a woman eight months pregnant. Caesarian section immediately after death. Reported by DAVID A. HART, Student of Bishop's College, Montreal.

On the morning of the 25th November, 1873, Mrs. F. sent for Dr. Trenholme, at about nine o'clock, to attend Mrs. M., suddenly taken ill at her house. Mrs. M., a Canadian by birth, is about 40 years of age, stout and plethoric, about 5 feet 6 inches in height, and a little over eight months pregnant with her first child, having been married not a year.

Her history is uncertain, but from all that can be definitely known, she seemed, previous to the above date, to be laboring under some great mental anxiety, due, as she said, to domestic trouble, her husband having deserted her a short time after marriage, taking with him \$500 dollars, amount of all her savings. This, with the neglect of her family and friends, worried her, and caused at times great depression of spirits.

On the morning of the 25th November she rose at her customary hour, seemingly in better spirits than usual, and went down to the kitchen, where in a short time she suddenly complained of "a queer feeling" in her head, and feeling unwell. She was assisted to her room, and in a few minutes was "taken with a fit," and the doctor immediately summoned. On his arrival he found the patient comatose, face livid, breathing stertorous, pupils somewhat dilated—left pupil more than the right—and the limbs flaccid. Upon examination, per vaginam, found no evidence of uterine contraction; the os undilated and quite unyielding. Dr. T. stated that history of the woman indicated softening of the brain, and that the present condition was in all probability due to rupture of a blood-vessel, with effusion at base of the brain, but more extensive on the right than on the left side; also that the condition of the pupils led him to conclude that the right thalimi optici would be found specially implicated.

At half-past 10 a.m., I was sent with two other final students (Messrs. Rose & Shee) to watch the case. On our arrival we found the woman in a totally unconscious state, lying at length on her back, with head inclined to left side; surface cold, pale, clammy; nervous sensibility entirely gone, as by

pinching and tickling no corresponding movement was made; respiration 38 per minute; face slightly suffused and œdematous; patient evidently dying. Examination per vaginam showed the os uteri, as before stated, unchanged. Auscultation over uterus showed child still living.

At quarter to 12, Dr. Trenholme again called, and report made that no change had occurred from the time that we arrived, save that the patient was gradually sinking and very near her end. The child still showing signs of life, the doctor determined, as soon as life was extinct in the mother, to perform the caesarian section, in order to save the child if possible, and immediately made preparations for the operation. At twenty minutes past 12 life was declared extinct; and in presence of nine or ten students of his class, the doctor made the section through the Linea Alba into the uterus, and delivery of child effected, but dead, all our efforts to reanimate proving unavailing. The walls of the uterus were unusually thick, being at least $\frac{3}{4}$ in.—the average thickness being only $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Post-mortem, made three hours after death:

Thorax—Lungs healthy; heart surrounded by an unusual amount of fat; cavities empty, and the organs being firmly contracted, appeared smaller in size than natural. Abdomen—Liver presented a granular appearance, from commencing degeneration; gall-bladder contained between fifty and sixty stones, some as large as a pea. The remaining abdominal organs apparently normal. Uterus presented the normal post-partum condition; the incision on its anterior surface, through which the child was extracted, being open, and exhibited the still retained placenta.

Cranium—On removing the calvaria, the membranes were found highly congested, small clots being observed beneath the arachnoid, between the convolutions at different points. On removing the brain, all the structures at the base were found completely imbedded in coagulated blood, which covered nearly the whole surface of the base of the brain. On section—Punctæ vasculosa very large. The lateral ventricles were distended by a large clot, which also filled the third and fourth ventricles. The distension was so great that in the lateral ventricles the parts were displaced, and the septum lucidum completely destroyed. The floor of the third ventricle was ruptured forming a communication with the base. The "iter e tertio ad quartum ventriculum" was distended to the size of the little finger. The valve of Vieussens was ruptured, and the fourth ventricle distorted. The right "Thalimi optici"