

A CASE IN PRACTICE.

By C. J. EDGAR, M.D., INVERNESS, P.Q.

Mrs. M., aged 35, consulted me October 10th, 1887, for an enlargement of the abdomen, accompanied with metrorrhagia and failure of the general health. Had been married five years; had one child four years ago, but none since. Menses had not been regular for some time, but she had not noticed the lump until about four months previously. On external examination, found clothes drenched with a bloody discharge and the uterus about the size of a child's head, nodulated and irregular in shape. On internal examination, uterus large, retroverted, freely movable, and a large, hard mass distinctly felt in its posterior wall. Diagnosed fibro-myomata, and prescribed fluid ext. ergot 10 m., potass. iodid. 10 grs., and a tonic mixture, t.i.d. Tumor continued to grow rapidly, and metrorrhagia continued as profuse as before for a week, when both ergot and potass. iodid. were doubled in dose, which seemed to arrest the growth of the tumor and diminish the discharge. A week later grasping pains were felt occasionally in the uterus, and the tumor had distinctly decreased in size.

Nov. 17.—Her husband came during my absence to request my attendance at once. On my return two hours later I found the woman in bed, very pale and excited. A bundle was produced from under the bed, in which, wrapped up carefully, was our fibroid complete, enucleated and discharged entire; weight 14 ounces. It is a good specimen of the fibro-myomata, composed almost entirely of fibrous tissue and very hard. The woman confessed that, getting tired of her slow improvement, she had taken, at one dose, a tablespoonful (3iiss) of the fluid extract ergot, with the result of bringing on tremendous labor pains and the discharge of the fibroid. The uterus was contracted firmly to its normal size, and was perfectly regular in shape.

In a few days she resumed her household duties, and continued perfectly well for six months, when she returned complaining of another tumor in the same place. This time, however, we let things alone, and on November 12th, 1888, I had the pleasure of delivering her of a fine ten-pound girl. Labor was rapid and easy, and the uterus seems to be perfectly healthy and normal.