

Again, *placenta prævia* may cause hemorrhage, due to the lack of contractile power, in the lower segment of the uterus, as compared with that possessed by the wall, at the normal site of the placenta, the closure of the blood vessels as a result being less prompt and complete. Varicose degeneration of a portion of the uterus has been observed in a case of local atony. Another author mentions a dangerous form of uterine atony, due to infection early in labor. This latter cause would possibly, in part at least, account for the strong assertion made by one author, that post partum hemorrhage was almost without exception the fault of the attendant.

*Symptoms.*—With the symptoms of post partum hemorrhage we are all more or less familiar. The feeble frequent pulse, pale and anxious face, shallow respirations, often difficult and perhaps gasping, frequently sighing or yawning, will be the first intimation that all is not right. (I have in my mind at the present time the following case:—Mrs. —, the wife of a medical man, her husband and another physician (both well up in the profession) were in attendance. Nothing unusual happened, being a case of ordinary labor. The labor concluded, and everything apparently all right, they retired to the next room to have some refreshments, when their attention was attracted to the patient by a heavy sigh. They, of course, hastened to her bedside, only to find that in spite of their best efforts she slipped from their grasp. I cite this case to illustrate the importance of that symptom.) The skin is cold and bathed in sweat. The distress may be so great that the patient will ask to be fanned or have a window opened, or complain of some disorder of sense, such as ringing in the ears, or obscurity of vision. There is great restlessness, and the loss of blood may be so great that syncope follows, and sometimes nervous manifestations or even convulsions close the scene.

The hemorrhage may be either external or internal, but usually mixed, that is, blood flows externally at the same time that it accumulates in the uterine cavity. The external hemorrhage reveals itself, while the internal may be readily recognized by placing the hand on the abdomen, when you will find the uterus greatly enlarged and relaxed, and possibly its boundaries not well