

## The Midwife.

### A Case of Adherent Placenta with Postpartum Hæmorrhage.

By MACK ALL.

Mrs. X. was nursed as a district case for a local doctor. She was a nervous, rather delicate-looking woman of thirty years of age. She had one child four years old. At her first confinement forceps had been used; her baby was abnormally large, and her convalescence slow.

Her second labour began during the night, and when the nurse arrived at five in the morning, she was having pains at long intervals. At 8.40 she was delivered naturally of a living child, a boy, who weighed nine pounds. Immediately after the birth of the child there was considerable hæmorrhage. The doctor found it impossible to express the placenta, and, although the hæmorrhage continued, the patient's condition was satisfactory for about forty minutes. Then there was a sudden gush of blood, after which she fainted. At this stage the doctor introduced his hand into the uterus, and found the placenta almost entirely adherent; he had literally to peel it away a little at a time. During the time the placenta was being removed the nurse lowered the patient's head, and raised her limbs.

As soon as Mrs. X. regained consciousness, she was given half an ounce of brandy, and after the placenta had been removed, a drachm and a half of ergot. A vaginal douche at a temperature of 115 degs. was then given, and the patient made comfortable. The uterus contracted as soon as it was empty, and the hæmorrhage ceased. Roughly calculated, the patient lost between three and four pints of blood. Eight hours after delivery Mrs. X.'s temperature was 99 degs., and her pulse 100. The temperature continued to rise daily, and on the fourth evening it reached 104 degs. The pulse was correspondingly high, sometimes being too small and fast to count. On one occasion when the nurse arrived she found the patient excited because the baby had been troublesome, and her pulse was then nearly 200. An hour afterwards it was 120.

A weak lysol douche was given every morning and evening for four days, and for four more a douche once a day. At that time—the ninth day—the lochia had ceased, and the fundus could scarcely be felt. On only one occasion were the lochia offensive. Mrs. X. had a headache for several days, and when her

temperature was 104 deg. on the fourth evening she was slightly delirious. She perspired freely during the night, and next morning her temperature was 99.6, and pulse 100. Her temperature did not rise again above 100 deg., and her pulse became steadier and stronger.

For twenty-four hours after delivery Mrs. X. was restless, and did not have much sleep. Afterwards she slept fairly well. She passed urine naturally from the first. On the third day she was given an aperient.

For a week she was kept on milk diet; then, her temperature remaining at normal, she was allowed "full diet."

The patient nursed her baby, but as he did not seem satisfied, he was given a bottle of milk and barley water, morning and evening.

Mrs. X. remained in bed for a fortnight, and then gradually got about, but for several weeks her lips were pale, and she seemed almost bloodless.

At the end of a month, she was able to undertake her household duties, and go for short walks, but it was several months before she regained her former colour and strength.

### RECORD TWINS.

On the 25th of November, I had a call to attend a patient for the Lying-In Hospital, to which I have been attached for many years in Manchester. On arrival at 2 a.m. I found the patient in great pain, first bemoaning having to fetch me out of my bed, then imploring for something to put her out of her misery. I found on external palpation the abdomen was extremely large, and, although her age was 38, and she had had 12 children previously, I suspected it was a case of twins. After freely using antiseptics, I made an internal examination. I was able to at once rupture the membranes. In about ten minutes a fine girl was born. I placed my hand again on the abdomen, and found my diagnosis was correct. As there was a lull in the pains, I quickly washed and dressed number one. Again, after using antiseptics, I ruptured the membranes of number two. In about twenty minutes a fine boy was born. Both vertex presentations. Next day I weighed them. Girl weighed eight pounds and a quarter. Boy nine pounds two ounces. Placentas were extremely large. All are progressing wonderfully well. Mother suckling both babies. No wonder the poor mother was so often weary.

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