

recting it after the liquor amnii has escaped and the ergot acted. All danger is not over when the bleeding has been stopped, and the woman may die of shock, or sepsis later on. To prevent syncope, and loss of blood to the brain, the foot of the bed should be raised; and the arms and legs firmly bandaged. The patient must not be allowed to sit up or exert herself in any way, and all excitement must be avoided. Plenty of fresh air should be admitted into the room, but the patient must be kept warm with blankets and carefully covered hot water bottles. It is important to see these are adequately protected with a flannel cover, as it would be very discreditable to allow a patient to be burnt with an uncovered bottle. Saline injections may be ordered by the doctor. Unavoidable ante-partum hæmorrhage is caused by an abnormally situated placenta; the condition is known as Placenta Prævia (Lat. præ: before, via: in the way, placenta in the way of the child.)

When the centre of the placenta is situated over the os uteri internum it is called "central." If it is more on one side than the other it is "partial," while if only the edge of the placenta covers the os it is called "marginal."

Placenta Prævia is more common in multiparæ than in primiparæ, and is frequently fatal. The chief signs and symptoms are hæmorrhage unaccompanied by pain, a soft, boggy swelling above the pubes, and an indefinite, spongy mass just over the internal os can be felt on vaginal examination. The parts of the fœtus will probably be difficult to feel, and it is likely to be in an abnormal position. After sending for the doctor the midwife must, if the bleeding is at all severe, rupture the membranes and put on a tight binder in the hope that this will bring down the presenting part, which will press on the bleeding surface and act as a kind of plug. If this does not bring on pains, and the doctor has not come, she may, to save life, be justified in performing internal version. Having made her left hand and arm as aseptic as possible the midwife must put her hand into the uterus and pull down an arm or leg to use as a plug to press on the bleeding part.

If the bleeding from Placenta Prævia is only slight, and the patient is not collapsed, the midwife can put her to bed with a tight binder on and wait for the doctor.

The rules of the Central Midwives' Board require a midwife to send for a qualified medical practitioner in all cases of abortion, and of hæmorrhage, slight or severe, in a pregnant woman.

### A True Incident.

Visitor, who is also a midwife: "I did not know you had another little grandchild, Mrs. Jones."

"No; I engaged with the Sisters up at ——. She had a shockin' time. I done plenty of this work in my time, but I am getting past it, so I thought it would be best to have the Sisters. It was like this; she was took bad about four in the afternoon, and I sends off for them. It's a goodish step, anyway, and the gal was gettin' bad, so I examines her and finds a cross birth. I says to my-

self, 'Somethinks got to be done.' I gets my book off the shelf and runs my finger down the C's till I comes to cross-birth. I reads it careful. I then cleanses my finger thus," suiting the action to the word by sucking it well and wiping it on her apron, "and I turns the child."

Inquisitive Visitor (mildly): "And what did the Sisters say?"

"Oh! they didn't 'all carry on, and 'ad the impudence to say it never was cross."

### The Central Midwives' Board.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Board Room, Caxton House, Westminster, on Tuesday, April 19th, Dr. Champneys presiding, to consider charges against a number of midwives, with the following results:—

#### STRUCK OFF THE ROLL.

Margaret Barnett (3174) was charged with neglecting her patient, neglecting to report inflammation of the infant's eyes, etc.

Henrietta Chinn (6902), neglect on two charges.

Margaret Davies (4875), charged with being drunk and disorderly on the public highway, and being under influence of drink, and totally incapable of performing duties when visited by the Executive Officer.

Annie Hardstaff (10124), charged with negligence. Her defence was, she considered the Supervising Officer too exacting, and it was washing day.

Margaret Middlemiss (12101), charged with not advising that medical assistance should be summoned for an abnormal presentation. She admitted having attempted to turn the child. Also accused of being under the influence of drink.

Sarah Timpson (5466), neglect to obey doctor's orders as to disinfection; also with being drunk on the public highway.

Mary Weddell (11168), charged with neglecting patient.

Elizabeth White (7561) admitted she had made no effort to resuscitate a child apparently born dead; uncleanly.

Ann Whitear (17574), uncleanly; neglectful of rules.

#### SEVERELY CENSURED.

Elizabeth Mary Dean (7195), who, after being informed by doctor that her patient was suffering from puerperal fever, attended the confinement of another woman.

Hannah Howe (2900), being under the impression the child was tongue-tied, divided the frænum, causing it to bleed to death. Wrote to say she knew she had no right to do so, and was very sorry. She tries to increase the population by every effort.

Elizabeth Wilding (9513) failed to inform the doctor of a ruptured perineum; the patient subsequently died of puerperal fever.

#### CENSURED.

Elizabeth Hill (16400), uncleanly. Her bag, on inspection, was found to contain a pair of bedroom slippers and a pot of jam. She considered it silly to make a fuss about it.

The report of the remainder of the penal cases will appear next week.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)