

## The Midwife.

### An Interesting Case.

#### POSSIBLE SUPERFETATION.

Para 4. Age 32. Previous labours and pregnancies normal; general health good; no history of kidney disease; one miscarriage of 5 months.

The present pregnancy, swelling of hands, feet, and legs from the fourth month; considerable increase after seventh month. There was no history of headache, sickness, disturbance of vision, no anæmia.

On admission, the examination of urine showed a heavy deposit of albumin, and the Esbach test 2.8%. Feet, legs, and abdominal walls were œdematous, and pitted on pressure to the depth of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch.

On abdominal examination, the uterus was much distended, and the fundus an inch below the ensiform cartilage. Twins were diagnosed, both with vertex presenting, one head entering brim and the other on right side of pelvis above brim. Foetal heart sounds were heard on left side of abdomen below umbilicus 156 beats to the minute, and another on right side in the flanks 136. There was considerable liquor amnii.

On vaginal examination, no œdema of external parts, the os uteri the size of a two-shilling piece, 1st vertex presenting, the head very small and freely movable, half an hour later the patient had three pains, and the first twin was born, a boy weighing 3 lbs. 9 ozs., length 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches, with all the signs of a premature baby of about 32 weeks, wrinkled appearance, weak cry, skin red, and a considerable amount of lanugo on face and body.

On second vaginal examination, the os was somewhat retracted, anterior lip œdematous, the presenting part of second child very difficult to reach, per abdomen head above the brim. An hour later pains again began. On vaginal examination the cervix was found to be œdematous all round, membranes were then artificially ruptured, the presenting part entered the brim in the 2nd vertex position. Fairly strong pains every eight minutes, but as no advance was being made, the second child, a boy, was delivered with forceps four hours after the birth of the first. Weight 6 lbs. 4 ozs., length 19 inches, with the appearance of a full term child.

The placenta was expelled 10 minutes later. Apparently there was one placenta, but on careful inspection there was a line uniting the two portions which could be easily separated, the vessels in the smaller portion were smaller than those of the larger portion. There were two complete sacks. Amount of hæmorrhage 7 ounces.

Twenty-four hours after delivery patient's face became puffy, but the amount of albumin had decreased to .8 per cent. Patient was put on milk and fish diet, otherwise there was no other treatment. On the fifth day a marked decrease of œdema, the Esbach test showed a decreased amount of albumin, .1%.

Points of interest in this case are the disparity of weight and length in the babies, and the question arises was it a case of superfetation?

The œdema and albumin were probably due to excessive pressure incident to the twin pregnancy.

The patient was discharged on the 13th day in very good condition; there was still some albumin in the urine, probably owing to the ureters not being in their normal condition.

The small child was entirely breast fed, and exceeded its birth weight by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  ozs.

The larger child lost considerably the first few days, but made a steady advance until its discharge, when it was 3 ozs. below birth weight. The feeding of this baby was supplemented with modified cow's milk.

E. F. WELLS.

### The Central Midwives' Board.

#### APRIL EXAMINATION.

##### LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

At the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, held in London on April 28th, 1910, the number of candidates examined was 353, of whom 308 passed the examiners. The percentage of failures was 12.8%.

##### LONDON.

*British Lying-in Hospital.*—E. S. Anness, S. Brewer, L. S. Chew, E. B. Simon, S. Stuart, M. E. Willson.

*City of London Lying-in Hospital.*—P. G. Austin, G. E. D. Bignold, S. A. G. Blyth, A. W. Fraser, M. L. Hodgson, A. L. Hughes, W. Taylor, B. M. Williams, V. Wisbey.

*Clapham Maternity Hospital.*—H. E. Barham, L. Eyre, L. Hetherington, E. G. Ibbotson, G. F. Kaplan-Ingol, M. Thresher.

*East End Mothers' Home.*—M. Anders, L. C. Coleman, A. M. Everington, C. F. S. Field, M. Hemsley, M. M. Jarvis, E. Lupton, L. G. Martin, C. E. Moore, M. E. O'Sullivan, F. E. Parsons, E. Taite.

*General Lying-in Hospital.*—A. H. Anthony, K. M. Champion, E. Clarke, H. L. Constable, L. B. Cotes, N. Cowell, C. A. Creer, F. C. Dampier, O. Fisher, R. B. Fitchett, N. T. Frost, E. M. Gransby, E. F. Haggis, M. O. Haines, H. M. W. Hoeth, A. Iremonger, E. M. Jones, M. Jones, M. L. Joseph, S. K. Latham, A. A. Laver, C. Lishman, F. M. Morrison, A. P. Smartt, C. Street, E. M. Thorold, F. Walker, E. Wasteneys, M. M. Whitehouse, E. Winstanley, I. M. Yonge.

*Guy's Institution.*—A. Clifton, M. A. D. Collingwood, M. Hogg, M. C. Levis, M. K. Tyson, M. H. R. Watkins.

*Greenwich Union Infirmary.*—M. J. Page, F. S. Pool.

*Kensington Union Infirmary.*—E. M. Coxhill, E. E. Wilson.

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