

In reduced vertex presentations the anterior parietal bone is more convex, the posterior parietal bone, exposed to considerable pressure during descent, and rotation is pushed under the anterior parietal bone, the parietal eminences are at different levels, the frontal occipital bones are flattened and pushed under the parietal bones. The posterior frontal bone may overlap the anterior frontal bone, the head is elongated with retreating forehead. This moulding somewhat exaggerated is sometimes present in persistent occiput posterior positions.

The extreme point of moulding on which the caput is usually situated forms, as it were, the apex of an asymmetrical cone, the base of which is the plane subjected to the greatest pressure.

In face presentations there is usually considerable prominence of the forehead as in brow presentations, the frontal bones are convex; this is not easily accounted for. Dakin says "the horizontal part of the frontal bone is rigidly united with the base of the skull, and its vertical part only gradually thins off to the anterior fontanelle. The vault of the skull here does not obey the compressing force so readily, and so remains somewhat prominent."

The occiput is flattened against the back of the infant, the sagittal suture runs down straightly, the head is markedly dolichocephalic. In brow presentations the distortion is very considerable, and the moulding characteristic. The squamous portion of the occipital bone, and the parietal bones, accommodate themselves to the curve of the pelvis posteriorly.

The moulding in difficult labours is necessarily much accentuated, and is modified by the degree and variety of contracted pelvis, and the compressibility of the head. There may be dents and grooves due to the prolonged pressure of the pelvic bones on the head. Injury to the brain, and intra-cranial hæmorrhage may arise from excessive moulding.

At birth, the moulding should be carefully observed, and any departures from the normal noted; the measurements are only useful if compared with a second measuring on the fourth or fifth day, when the head has, as a rule, regained its normal condition. In extreme

moulding the changes may be permanent. The diameters increased during labour diminish rapidly, the diameters diminished return to their original size rather more slowly.

The accompanying illustration is drawn from life, the infant was delivered as an unreduced brow. The measurements were as follows:—

Bi-parietal, $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. ($9\frac{1}{2}$ c.m.); mento-vertical, $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. ($11\frac{1}{2}$ c.m.); bi-temporal, 3 ins. ($7\frac{1}{2}$ c.m.); sub-occipito bregmatic, 4 ins. (10 c.m.); fronto occipital, $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. ($11\frac{1}{2}$ c.m.); sub-occipito-frontal, 4 ins. (10 c.m.).

Circumference:—Fronto occipital, $13\frac{1}{2}$ in. ($33\frac{3}{4}$ c.m.); sub-occipito bregmatic, $12\frac{1}{2}$ ins. ($31\frac{1}{2}$ c.m.); vertico-mental, $13\frac{1}{2}$ ins. ($33\frac{3}{4}$ c.m.).

M. O. H.

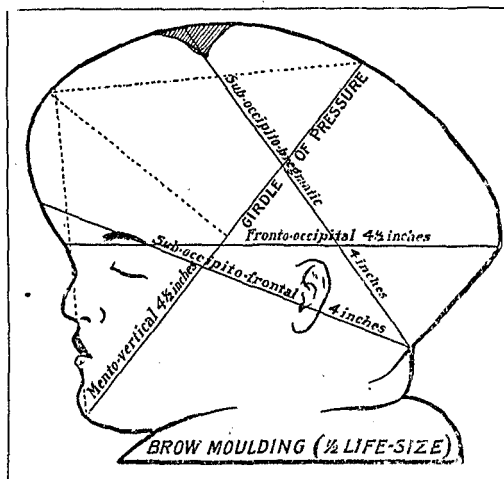
THE EAST END MOTHERS' HOME.

The Annual Report of the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home, which will hold its annual meeting at the Home, 394, Commercial Road, on April 5th, shows that an excellent work has been carried on during the past year.

The Resident Lady Superintendent, Miss Margaret Anderson, reports that the number of cases dealt with in the year 1910 amounted to 1,597, that is 170 patients in excess of last year's total. Under the Grace of Almighty God, every mother's life has been spared. They have all made good recoveries, in spite of what

at the time seemed insurmountable difficulties. In normal cases the strain on an over-worked, badly-nourished mother is great, and when illness or obstetric complications are added and the mother gets well, it makes one feel that the days of miracles are not over.

The increase on the district amounts to 185, and the visits paid by night and day number 22,160, the least number to any case being 17 and the greatest 130, for the mother and baby are both attended until well. Words are inadequate to express the devotion and never-failing patience of the two District Sisters, who not only do the work, but of necessity have to bear the enormous responsibility entailed. In many cases they have had to give emergency assistance before help could come from the Home, and have done so with perfect skill and promptitude, as the result of their work demonstrates.



BROW MOULDING.

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