

The Midwife.

TRIPLET LABOUR.

An interesting case of a triplet labour under close observation in a maternity hospital, recorded in a foreign contemporary, is published in the *British Medical Journal*. The patient was 33 years old, and there had been several twin pregnancies among her blood relations. She herself had been pregnant once before, three years earlier, and was delivered spontaneously at term. Conception occurred in July, 1911. The uterus grew very large, and twins were diagnosed. Pains set in on March 19th, 1912. The breech of a fetus presented, and, after a few hours, a female child, weighing $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb., was delivered. The proximal side of the cord as well as the distal was ligatured. The second fetus presented transversely. A tense bag of membranes could be felt, and was ruptured; then an arm prolapsed. Version was practised, and evolution proved somewhat difficult owing to extreme shortness of the cord, but at length, and without difficulty, a second female child, weighing under $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb., was delivered. The uterus remained large; the presence of a third fetus was overlooked, but on palpation of the uterus an hour later it was detected. Its head presented, but there was almost complete uterine inertia, so the child was delivered by version. It was a male, weighing only a little over 3 lb., yet well nourished. Owing to the inertia the placenta had to be extracted within thirty minutes, and much blood had already filled the cavity of the flaccid uterus. The mother suckled the boy only; at the end of three months he weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb., yet seemed healthy; the female children at the same date weighed one over 8 lb., and the other $7\frac{3}{4}$ lb. The placenta weighed about 1 lb. 3 oz., and measured $11\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter. All three cords were distinct, and inserted marginally; one insertion was velamentous. There was a bag of membranes for each fetus, and a septum between the adjacent membranes, which seemed to be formed out of two perfect amniotic cavities and one chorion. The septa coalesced at the centre of the placenta. The umbilical arteries were injected with coloured soot; then it was found that no vascular communication existed between the placentas. Blue, ochre, and carmine were used, and the coloured areas were distinct and sharply limited. Thus, added to the fact that there was a male as well as two females, this evidence gained by injection indi-

cated that the pregnancy was not univitelline nor bivittelline coexisting with a univitelline ovum, but trivitelline with subsequent fusion of the adjacent parts of the three placentæ.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following are the questions set to candidates for the examination of the Central Midwives Board, on December 16th:—

1. Describe the position of the bladder. What bladder troubles may arise during pregnancy and lying-in?
2. What advice would you give and what investigations would you make when engaged to attend a woman in her first confinement?
3. Give the signs in the second stage of a vertex presentation which would determine you to send for medical assistance. What might you do while awaiting the doctor's arrival?
4. Describe the mechanism of delivery of the after-coming head. What may delay the birth of the after-coming head and how would you manage such a case?
5. What would you do for a baby in convulsions? Mention the causes of convulsions.
6. Name the conditions included under the term venereal disease. Describe the local manifestations in the mother and child which would lead you to suspect the presence of any form of venereal disease. What is the midwife's duty in such cases?

NOTES ON MATERNITY HOSPITALS.

THE GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

The Ladies' Association of the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, have sent in their annual contribution of work, consisting of nearly 300 garments, all made to hospital pattern. What a tremendous help this work is only those responsible for the hospital linen really know. The constant wear and tear renders the life of garments very short, therefore constant supplies are always needed, and leisure moments could not be used to better purpose than in helping in this way.

The Romany Amateur Dramatic Club presented "What the Public Wants," a play in four acts by Arnold Bennett, at the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square, on December 16th and 17th, in aid of the funds of the Hospital. This afforded an opportunity of combining pleasure with help for a very deserving charity.

Their Majesties the King and Queen have given their patronage to the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, of which Mr. John Burns is President.

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