

# The Midwife.

## A CASE OF TRIPLETS.

I think the following case of triplets will interest readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING:—

Mrs. Louisa Fernandez was admitted to the Midwifery Block of the Cama and Allbless Hospital, on January 1st, 1913, aged thirty-eight years. She had had eight previous confinements, all apparently normal; four children were still living. She had told her relatives during the latter part of the pregnancy that she had never felt in any previous pregnancies as she had throughout this one; she was sure "something was wrong"; and when she left home, to come to hospital, there was a solemn leave-taking.

Arrived in hospital the patient looked far more like an enormous cyst-case than a pregnancy! She was allowed to stay, although labour had not begun, on account of her abnormal size.

The following is the history:—

Pains began on January 6th, evening.

Membranes ruptured January 7th, 9.15 a.m.

*First Child.*—Delivered January 7th, 9.35 a.m.; weight, 6 lb.; length, 17 ins.; cord, 24 ins.; female. Placenta normally delivered; weight, 1 lb. 2 oz.

*Second Child.*—Delivered 2.30 p.m.; weight, 5 lb.; length, 17 ins.; cord, 12 ins.; female.

*Third Child.*—Delivered 2.35 p.m.; weight, 5 lb.; length, 17 ins.; cord, 22 ins.; female.

Placenta of the two last children was adherent, removed by hand; weight, 1 lb. 10 oz. Patient collapsed utterly after birth of third child. Temp. 98.4, P. 150, R. 44; before delivery, *i.e.*, 7 a.m., temp. 97, P. 84, R. 24.

Normal saline was given subcutaneously, one pint, Adrenalen hypodermically four-hourly, tight binders put on, and treatment for shock from

withdrawal of large amount of fluid, was given throughout the case, but the heart was acting very imperfectly, and the greatly distended vessels were unable to contract down; the patient died at 11 p.m.

It will be noted that the children were of a weight well above the average for Indian babies; 4½ lb., I should say, is certainly not too low a weight for the average, if anything it is a high computation; we very, very rarely have one of 7 lb. The uterus of this poor woman contained 18 lb., without the liquor amnii.

The accompanying photograph was taken in the beautiful grounds of the Cama Hospital by the Lady Superintendent (myself), the Charge Nurse of the Midwifery Wards, Nurse Bedford having the three little sisters on her lap. The one in the right-hand corner of the picture (lying against the nurse's heart) is the eldest. Unfortunately, she very soon began to have greenish stools; and with all the care in the preparation of their bottles, and using Albulactin, she succumbed on the 18th. The other two have gone to the Nasik Babies' Home and Orphanage, where each child has its wet-nurse and foster-mother; and if they *can* pull up, they have every chance now of getting on. But, with these native babies,

you might almost as well give them feeds of curry and rice, as try to rear them without a mother. It is *not* only the milk, though, of course, that counts for a very great deal, but it is also the proximity to the mother, the knowledge that the mother is near to warm, to soothe, to touch, instead of the child lying alone and forlorn all the time in a cot.

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TRIPLETS BORN IN THE CAMA AND ALLBLESS HOSPITAL, BOMBAY, WITH NURSE BEDFORD, CHARGE NURSE.  
(Photograph by the Matron, Miss Grace Tindall.)

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