

The Midwife.

TWO INTERESTING CASES.

The *British Medical Journal* reports the following interesting cases—the first from an American, and the second from a French exchange :

RUPTURE OF SYMPHYSIS IN LABOUR.

Tuley reports an instance of this complication following an occipito-posterior forceps labour. A woman, aged 23, had been delivered of her first child by forceps. Two years later she was in labour for ten hours, the second stage occupying two hours. The forceps was applied for an hour, and forcible traction made intermittently under chloroform. Tuley then examined the parts, and defined a large head with the occiput directly posterior. The vagina was very œdematous. Without difficulty the head was at once turned to the left occipito-anterior position. The forceps was then applied and the head delivered with quite moderate traction. The child was asphyxiated, but was saved. Much hæmorrhage followed its extraction, which continued after expression of the placenta. The parts being carefully searched, the bleeding was traced to a rent anterior to the vagina near the urethra, and in packing it the finger passed between the pubic bones at the symphysis, the gap being $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. in width. Plaster was at first applied, and afterwards a suitable binder with straps and buckles; and although there was phlegmasia of the left leg, union was complete at the end of six weeks.

UNCONTROLLABLE UMBILICAL HÆMORRHAGE IN NEWBORN.

Audebert reports a case of dyscrasic hæmorrhage in a hæmophilic newborn child. The bleeding set in on the sixth day, and proved fatal five days later. Ganjon, discussing the case, mentioned another in his experience. The infant was born at the end of the fifth month, and its placenta was very heavy. The mother was single, and syphilis was suspected, but Wassermann's reaction was not tried, and there was no *post-mortem* examination. The stump of the funis came away on the sixth day; two days later hæmorrhages set in, and a large hæmatoma developed. The bleeding umbilical tissues were covered in by a whip-stitch suture, but the integuments thus brought together sloughed, and after injections of antidiphtheritic and physiological serums had been given the punctures bled continuously. The child died on the seventeenth day. Secheyron—in noting an instance of fatal hæmatemesis, developing on the fourth day—considered that it was due to hæmophilia and homologous to Audebert's case; but it was not certain that there was no intestinal lesion. Uncontrollable umbilical hæmorrhage seemed usually ascribable to syphilis, nor was it clear whether there was true hæmophilia in non-syphilitic infants.

OUR AEROPLANE BABY.

TOLD BY A COUNTY HOSPITAL MATRON.

We all remember the tales of our grandmothers of the various reasons for the congenital deformity in any of their children. Well, the present day mothers are keeping up with the times in that respect.

A mother came to our children's ward with a baby of about four weeks, well covered up in a shawl.

MOTHER: Please, sister, doctor has sent baby to be taken in.

SISTER: Yes; what is the matter? (Sister expecting to hear hernia, of which we have many cases.)

MOTHER (rather queerly): Baby has an aeroplane on his face.

What! says sister, and investigates, to find baby suffering from a double cleft palate and hare lip; certainly very bad, but where the aeroplane came in she could not quite see. The mother then went on to explain how she had been frightened by an aeroplane, and this was the result. This was told to the matron, who next received a visit from a reporter from the local paper, asking if this was true; that some one had written to their office stating that a baby had been born in the town with a face like an aeroplane, with body and wings, &c., complete, and was then in the hospital. He went away a wiser man, we hope. The out-patient porter then had a tale to tell of how an out-patient asked him "if it was true that Mrs. So-and-So's baby had been brought to the hospital to be put under, as it was so dreadful with an aeroplane face?" He being a bit of a wit, and not having heard of the notable baby, remarked that, "The last he heard of it, it was a balloon, but it might have changed; he would inquire, &c."

We hope, of course, to return the mother her baby with a face without great deformity, but it is a bad case, and who can tell. However, should accident occur and the poor thing be removed to another world, I expect we should have quite a number coming up to have babies "put under," not the sort of case we should care for I am afraid.

It is a good baby and otherwise well formed.

THE DARWEN MOTHERS' CLUB.

The Mothers' Clubs, Schools for Mothers, and Mothers' Welcomes, which are being organized through the country, are doing excellent work, and of these the Darwen Mothers' Club seems to be an excellent example. It is governed by a Committee of ladies representative of the religious bodies in the town, and others interested in woman's work, and its objects are to give instruction on infant feeding and rearing, and to organize a fund—raised by fortnightly payments by the

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