

The Midwife.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE SEVERE ANÆMIAS OF PREGNANCY AND THE POST-PARTUM STATE.

Sir William Osler, Bart., M.D., F.R.S., Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, has contributed to *The British Medical Journal* of January 4th, a most interesting article on the above subject. Professor Osler says that "those whose professional careers coincide with its modern study will remember how important was the part played by these conditions in severe anæmia." He divides the cases into four groups:—

1. Anæmia from *post-partum* hæmorrhage.
2. The severe anæmia of pregnancy.
3. *Post-partum* anæmia.
4. The acute anæmia of *post-partum* sepsis.

ANÆMIA FROM POST-PARTUM HÆMORRHAGE.

Two divisions are noted under this head:—

"(a) The bleeding may be profuse and rapidly fatal. The physician, says Sir William Osler, sees fatal hæmorrhage in aneurysm, in typhoid fever, in peptic ulcer, and in ruptured œsophageal varix, none of which conditions present the tragedy of the *post-partum* case. Only once has it been my misfortune to witness this peculiarly pathetic accident. Peace and quiet reign in the lying-in chamber and happiness in the household, for all has gone well, and the young mother is just beginning to realise the joy that "a child is born into the world." The doctor may have left, feeling safe and satisfied. The attention of the nurse is attracted by a sudden restlessness of her patient, whose face shows a beginning pallor, and she finds the dressings soaked with blood. Very soon the symptoms are those of acute anæmia—a rapid jerky pulse, extreme restlessness, yawning, sweating, sighing respiration, increasing pallor, and with muscular twitchings, convulsions, or a sudden collapse all is over. This was what I saw one afternoon, called hurriedly to the house of a neighbour—a strong, healthy young woman *in articulo mortis*, after a normal delivery, as bloodless as if the carotids had been cut. No wonder that novelists have made such a tragedy the climax of a story.

"(b) *The Anæmia Following Repeated Small Hæmorrhages.*—This not infrequently follows abortion, more rarely the repeated bleeding after a delivery at term."

ANTE-PARTUM ANÆMIA.

Sir William Osler points out that the blood of the pregnant woman shows in the early months a diminution of red corpuscles, a low hæmoglobin, and a slight leucocytosis. A slight pallor in the early months is common, and is often associated with the morning vomiting or dyspepsia. This so-called chloro-anæmia may pass on to a grave and fatal form.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

APPROVAL OF NEW RULES.

Subject to the approval of the Privy Council, the Central Midwives Board (England) have approved draft Rules:—

- (1) Requiring a midwife to notify the Local Supervising Authority when she has advised artificial feeding.
- (2) Regulating the payment of expenses incurred by members in respect of their attendance at meetings of the Board.
- (3) Deciding the conditions under which midwives may be suspended from practice in penal cases by (a) the Board, (b) the Local Supervising Authority.

DATES OF ORDINARY BOARD MEETINGS FOR 1919.

The dates of the ordinary Board meetings for 1919 have been fixed as follows:—

January 23	June 19
February 20	July 24
March 20	October 9
April 16	November 20
May 22	December 18

PENAL CASES.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board to consider penal cases, was held at 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, December 19th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding, with the following results:—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate cancelled.—Sarah Anne Wakefield (No. 8135).

Reports asked for in three and six Months from the Local Supervising authority.—Beatrice Harriott Dalton Churchill, L.O.S. Cert. (No 125).

No action.—Elizabeth Lloyd, C.M.B. Cert. (No. 36928).

ABERDEEN NURSES' CLUB AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 27th, the members of the above held a most enjoyable social evening in the West End Rooms.

The guests numbering about 100 were welcomed by Miss Scott, the President of the Association, and after tea the evening passed all too quickly with songs, dancing and Scotch readings.

These happy social evenings are bound to be of great help to all the members by drawing them closer to each other in friendly intercourse, and one and all were unanimous in saying it was the most enjoyable they had ever spent.

It is the great hope of the President and the Committee that this will lead to many others and a hearty invitation was extended to all present to the usual monthly socials held in the Nurses' Club Rooms.

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