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CASE OF PURPURA HÆMORRHAGICA.

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THE child of E. H. T. was to all appearance perfectly healthy at the time of birth, Dec. 2d, 1857. Up to Dec. 15th nothing peculiar was observed about it, the secretions and excretions seeming normal; it nursed heartily, and slept well. On this day, a red spot was observed under the left angle of the jaw. I saw him Dec. 16th, in the morning. The red spot had disappeared, but there was a slight yellowish tint of the skin, and a spot about the size of a dime over the external condyle of the right humerus. This spot was purplish, and apparently, to the touch, raised. There were a few aphthæ about the lips. A scruple of chlorate of potassa was directed to be given in the course of the day, in sweetened water. On the 17th, at 9, A.M., I was called in haste to see him, and received the following account. About half an hour before, he being asleep, the parents remarked that the skin had lost the yellowish tint of yesterday, and the spot on the elbow had vanished. Within five minutes he awoke, and began to cry, and, while crying, the mother observed him gradually becoming black, and sent for me. When I arrived, he was lying upon the nurse's lap, apparently free from pain. His color was as dark as that of any mulatto. The color was not bilious, neither was it the purple of a "blue" baby, but of that peculiar cast which would have caused it to be mistaken for a negro child, such as is usually seen in this city. When made to cry, the color deepened. The lips, tongue and gums were almost inky black. He would nurse for a few minutes at a time. There was no panting, but the respiration was natural, and the pulse regular and normal. The skin was neither abnormally cold nor warm. Cutis anserina about the shoulders. A dejection just passed was of a golden yellow and well digested. The urine had stained the diaper of a dirty brown. On the diaper, and not mixed with the

faeces, was a mass looking like blood which had been mixed with a mineral acid and partially dried, or as much like moistened snuff as anything to which I could compare it. Inside of both thighs were twenty or thirty raised black spots, not more than a twelfth of an inch in diameter, evidently purpuric, and two or three more on different parts of the face. The umbilicus was not perfectly healed, but there was nothing more from it than a slight purulent oozing. Eyes not yellow. I administered an enema of starch, and sent for Dr. John Ware. The enema brought away a golden yellow discharge, but no more blood. Dr. Ware did not remember having seen any similar case. Up to 1½ P.M., the child nursed twice, had another natural-looking discharge from the bowels, and wet two diapers of a dirty color, darker than before. The one upon the child was taken away, and I found another of the snuff-like masses covering the end of the penis and in part lying under the prepuce. This I removed with a pair of small forceps, and there was at once a jerking discharge of urine, less than a drachm of which was caught in a teaspoon. The color was like that of strong coffee. Dr. Calvin Ellis, who examined both the fluid and solid microscopically, says: "The dark-colored dry mass and the fluid contained nothing but masses of granules or minute globules. If this originated in blood, there was no evidence [microscopic?] of it." Dr. John Bacon, who made a chemical examination, was of opinion that it was altered blood. The quantity which was sent to him was small and upon the cloths.

The child nursed well at night, when I saw him with Dr. J. M. Phipps. Through the night he was restless, but nursed. On the 18th the color was perhaps less deep. The purpuric spots on the thighs diminished in size, and that on the elbow almost disappeared. The conjunctival membrane still remained free from yellow cast. At 4½ P.M., he was evidently dying. While examining him, the mother called my attention to a gradual change of color to a yellow hue, which commenced from under the left arm, passed forward so as to include the left nipple, up the left side of the neck, and down the left arm and forearm. There had been two dejections of perhaps a tablespoonful of dark-brown faecal matter. He died, almost imperceptibly, at about 5 P.M. At 10½ A.M., of the following day, rigor mortis was beginning in the extremities. The color of the surface was like that of a person who has for a long time taken nitrate of silver.

The mother of this child had a short labor and had been well after it; she nursed without difficulty, and had abundance of milk. Her husband is in robust health. This was their third child. During the pregnancy, the mother was perfectly well and free from nausea, even. Their second child, born in February, 1855, is still living in perfect health, and weighs 37 pounds. Their first was born in April, 1851, and, though apparently healthy at birth, died of trismus on the same day.