HYDATIDS OF THE UTERUS SIMULATING PREGNANCY.

Communicated by C. A. WHEELER, M.D., of Leominster, Mass.

SINCE reading Mr. Ley's case of hydatids in the last number of Braithwaite, I am induced to report a somewhat similar case that recently occurred in my own practice. Judging from his remarks that such cases were not common, I thought that perhaps the case might not be uninteresting to the profession.

A lady, aged 29, who had a child about two years ago, recently sent for me and informed me that she was four months gone in pregnancy, and that for the last four or five weeks she had had a troublesome hæmorrhage from the womb. The flow, she said, had been more or less constant during that time, the discharges being at times dark, at others fresh as from a cut.

She seemed to have all the symptoms of pregnancy; had had morning sickness, increase in size of abdomen, &c. Her pulse was normal, appetite good, bowels rather constipated, pain in the small of the back; this latter symptom was an early and constant attendant upon the menorrhagia.

Fearing a threatened abortion, I ordered opiates, sinapism to back and absolute rest, with directions to call me should any new symptoms appear, or if she got no relief. I saw her again in a few days; there was no abatement of pain or flowing, a little increase of latter if anything. I found on vaginal examination that the cervix was softened to about one-third its extent; thus this important symptom confirmed my diagnosis. Now ordered tr. ferri muriat. in doses of 15 drops four times a day, and continued this treatment for two weeks, but with no diminution of the flowing. Then prescribed oleum crigeri, with like results; afterwards small doses of ergot, vaginal injections of dilute sulphuric acid (5 drops to the oz. of water), but the hæmorrhage steadily increased from week to week, so that at the end of 4 weeks from the time I first saw her, it amounted to 3 or 4 ozs. per day, which affected her strength seriously. About this time she said she began to feel *motion* of the fœtus quite distinctly. Suspecting I had got a case of placenta prævia, and seeing no prospect of arresting the hæmorrhage until the uterus had expelled its contents, I advised producing premature labor. Comprehending the necessity, the patient consented. Made another vaginal examination, found a slight advancement of softening of the cervix, and noticing some brown patches of membrane, or what appeared to be such, told her I thought the fœtus might be dead; she asserted that it could not be so, for she felt the motions very vigorously. The next day I introduced a sponge tent into the cervix and plugged the vagina.

Labor came on in 24 hours, pains quite frequent but feeble. Removed the plugging and tent, and found the os dilated so as to admit my finger, and a soft mass presenting, which I took to be the placenta. The hæmorrhage was not greatly increased. The expulsive

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efforts of the uterus continuing feeble, I gave ergot, and was obliged to push it as far as I dared, before the uretus could be stimulated sufficiently to expel its contents. About four hours after the first dose of ergot was given, I discerned, in one of my examinations, that the vagina was completely filled with a soft mass, which, readily breaking up under pressure, I took to be a clot, but, on removing a portion, discovered I had got a case of hydatids, as much to my surprise as to the patient's. I removed, in the course of half an hour, about two quarts of this substance, which resembled exactly the mass that Mr. Ley speaks of in his case. It was composed of hundreds of watery vesicles, some quite minute, others as large as the end of the finger, united by a substance resembling the body of a placenta, but as readily breaking down under pressure as clots. The womb contracted well after its contents were expelled. There was not as much hemorrhage as is usual during an abortion at five months. On the third day there was a slight secretion of milk. The lochial discharge continued about as long as after ordinary cases of labor. The patient made a rapid recovery.

CARELESSNESS IN THE COLLECTION OF DRUGS.

By J. M. MAISCII.

CAREFUL pharmacists will always subject new lots of drugs to the process of garbling. When large quantities of different drugs are dried at the same time in the drying closet or room, or when original packages are kept open side by side in the warehouse of the wholesale dealer, the drugs may become mixed to a slight extent. These chances alone, aside from all possibilities of intentional admixtures, render it incumbent upon the pharmacist to subject each parcel to a rigid examination, and separate all foreign admixtures, as well as all unofficinal parts of officinal plants.

Of late years, the quality of certain drugs has constantly assumed a lower grade. Alexandria senna, which was always more or less mixed with petioles and with leaves which, to a casual observer, might pass for senna, has gradually become adulterated with stalks to such an extent that, by garbling, fully 50 per cent. may be separated, thus enhancing the price of a passable drug to double the amount of the commercial article. While it is possible that some careless or unscrupulous persons may use these impure leaves, the majority of pharmacists probably employ the East Indian or Tinevelly senna, unless the Alexandria variety is particularly ordered.

This is only one instance; but every pharmacist will remember many others. If, in the inspection of the imported drugs at the ports of importance, the United States Pharmacopœia is taken as the guide, it is to be wondered where the drug inspectors find the authority for passing senna leaves containing half of their weight of leaf