

fatigue on the part of the operator and patient which nature is capable of enduring, success is not, I think, in cases of long standing to be attained. But with it much may be expected. It is not original, but it is novel, and merits a faithful trial in all cases.

I will only further observe that, whereas this young wife came here to submit to a dangerous operation, which, even if successful, would have forever disqualified her for child-bearing, she returned to her home with a perfectly normal condition of her sexual organs, a healthy uterus, and complete aptitude for conception.

120 NINTH STREET.

ART. XII.—*Case of Congenital Malformation and Deficiency of the Upper Extremities.* By J. H. POOLEY, M.D., of Youkers, N. Y.

GRACE S. attracted my attention at first by the absence of the thumb both on the right and left hand, and on further examination I found other peculiarities worthy of attention, and which I am about to describe.

The child is 10 years of age, rather pretty, with dark hair and eyes, tall, and, with the exceptions to be mentioned, well developed.

The right arm presents no peculiarity above the elbow, but below that joint seems rather short, and presents a slightly curved appearance, the concavity of the curve looking inwards, or to the radial aspect of the forearm. The forearm measures from the olecranon to the styloid process of the ulna  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches; its motions are all circumscribed and imperfect, from what cause, however, does not clearly appear. The muscles on its dorsal aspect, to wit, the extensors of the hand, seem to be deficient in power and development, the result of which is a form of partial paralysis, presenting great similarity to the wrist-drop of lead palsy. The hand has four taper, well-formed fingers, but no thumb or metacarpal bone corresponding thereto; there is a slight contraction of the forefinger.

The left upper extremity is curiously deformed throughout, presenting rather the appearance at first sight of the flipper of a seal or turtle, than of that perfection of grace and mechanical adaptation, the human arm. The following is a detailed description of its peculiarities:—

The scapula is smaller than its fellow of the opposite side, narrower, and more sharply triangular in form. At the humeral extremity it has only one process, which seems to be an exaggerated coracoid, and projects very strongly, giving the shoulder a strangely pointed appearance. This want of the usual rounded contour of the shoulder is still further increased from the fact that the head of the humerus is small, and almost imperceptible either to the sight or touch.

The humerus is short and slightly curved; it measures from the top of the coracoid process to the olecranon  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

The left forearm has no radius, the ulna is short, only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and strongly curved; there are only one or two imperfect carpal bones, those on the radial side being all wanting, and owing to this unsupported condition of the hand, it is strongly adducted. This hand, like the other,

wants the thumb and its metacarpal bone. The fore and middle fingers are contracted, the forefinger overriding its neighbour.

This child's ears are remarkably small, and differ considerably from the usual conformation; she is also quite hard of hearing. She has well-marked phthisis, and has recently had an attack of hæmoptysis; her mother is also consumptive, and not expected to live long.

This child's mother, I was told by her grandmother, whom she was visiting at the time of my seeing her, presents a similar deformity, except that in her case there is on the radial side of each hand a little teat-like process or appeadage, probably rudimentary thumbs. This deformity in the mother the grandmother refers to a fright she received while pregnant, from some crabs crawling about the kitchen floor, and thinks she is justified in this piece of philosophy, because she says her daughter's hands look like crab's claws. Grace had a little sister, who only lived a few months, and was similarly deformed. The other children, two in number, presented no deformity of any kind; they died in infancy. The deformity in the case of Grace and her sister is also attributed to a fright their mother received while pregnant, but in them there is no attempt to trace any analogy between the object producing it and the resulting deformity; but the grandmother says that in both cases the mother confidently predicted at the time of the fright, and afterwards, that the children would be marked.

I have thought this case extraordinary and interesting enough to deserve a permanent record within reach of any future compiler, who may go over the ground which Annandale has recently, but very imperfectly, occupied, or any philosopher who may be glad of one additional instance by which to support or illustrate a theory.

I have abstained from adding any comment or remark to the simple record, and will close by simply suggesting as queries not yet definitely answered, What degree of credit, if any, is to be given to the influence of violent or disagreeable impressions on the pregnant woman in producing these deformities? and what influence, if any, has the tuberculous or strumous diathesis in producing them?