

## A CASE OF PUERPERAL APOPLECTIC CONVULSIONS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

JANUARY 27th, 1858.—Was called to Mrs. R., a woman of low stature, rather robust, aged 26 (lived near my house). Expected to be confined in one or two weeks. She had had two spells of blindness of short duration, which somewhat alarmed her. Has had a bad feeling in her head at times during the past year. (Her mother died of some puerperal disease.) Has been married six years, and has had one child, which is now three years old, at the birth of which all was well. Health is now good; slight determination of blood to the head. Ordered a Seidlitz powder to be taken every other day.

Monday, Feb. 1st, 7, A.M.—Was notified that labor pains had come on, and she wanted me to send her something for a pain in her stomach, and be ready to come when called. Sent an extemporaneous carminative preparation. At 10 o'clock she was no better, and wanted to see me. Found her walking about the room, with pain and sickness at the stomach, and very slight labor pains. No trouble about the head. Gave her a gentle emetic, which caused a little vomiting of bilious matter, and afforded some relief. At 11½, labor pains came on strongly, and about 1 o'clock she was delivered of a healthy female child, weighing six pounds. In about thirty minutes the placenta came away, and in the course of an hour the patient was very comfortable in bed. If there was anything remarkable about the labor, it was the kindly manner in which everything went on, and the ease with which it was accomplished.

4 o'clock, P.M., I was informed that she was having some after-pains, and also pain in her stomach, and that she flowed rather more than at her previous labor. Sent her four Dover's powders, three grains each, one to be taken every three hours until relieved. The nurse said, "she took one, which relieved her, and she had a very quiet nap," from which she tried to awake her about 6 o'clock to give her some drink, but found it very difficult to arouse her. I was immediately called, and found her in a comatose state. Jaws set, unable to swallow, pulse about 100, almost imperceptible. Womb well contracted. Had flowed but a moderate quantity. Extremities quite cool. Breathing a little stertorous.

At midnight she had *one* regular convulsion, which lasted from sixty to ninety seconds. She had no more, but remained comatose until Saturday, the 6th, 105 hours, when she ceased to breathe, not having swallowed anything during the time, nor exhibited any signs of consciousness or feeling, except at times. When her hands, arms or feet were slapped, she would withdraw them; and when electricity was applied, she evidently felt it, and would flinch, and sometimes put her hand to the spot to which it was applied. During this long time the pulse varied from 80 to 100, sometimes tole-

rably full, but generally small and at times almost imperceptible, but always regular. At times she was in a profuse perspiration, and at others quite cold. Respiration stertorous a part of the time, if the head lay on its back, but if turned on its side the breathing would be quiet as though she was in a sound sleep, though the body still remained supine. There was but little frothing at the mouth.

The first urine drawn, about five ounces, twelve hours after the fit commenced, was of the color of a strong decoction of coffee, and a sediment was deposited, looking like fine coffee grounds. This urine proved by heat to be highly albuminous; in fact, from boiling it for a few seconds, it was as thick as cream. I am sure there was no vaginal discharge with this urine, as the parts were well cleaned. I cannot account for the color of this urine. Can you? The next drawn, about six or eight ounces, was of natural color, after which only two or three ounces were obtained at a time. No movement of the bowels was obtained, large injections nearly all coming away, and small ones remaining.

*Treatment of the Case.*—Mustard to back of neck, legs, and feet; bleeding from arms, and from foot in hot water; cups, exhausted by air pump, to back of neck; blisters to back of neck and thighs; snow to head; enemata of infusion of senna; sulphate of magnesia and oleum terebinth., twelve ounces at a time, repeated; also, enemata of ol. ricini and ol. tigllii, electro-magnetism, friction, &c.

J. H. BLAKE.

*North Auburn, Me., February, 1858.*

## CASE OF UNUNITED FRACTURE OF THE HUMERUS.

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MESSRS. EDITORS,—At the request of a few of my medical friends, not having been aware myself of its possessing any particular interest (which explains its late publication), I have prepared the following account of the treatment pursued in a case of ununited fracture. If it be thought worthy of notice, it is at your disposal.

April 28th, 1851, happening to be at the office of my brother in Marlboro', a young man, aged 28, from Clinton, presented himself for treatment. He stated that on Oct. 15th, 1848, being at that time in Waltham, he was thrown from a carriage, and broke his arm from three to four inches above the elbow; that since that time he had been under the care of a number of eminent surgeons, but that no union whatever had taken place at the fracture. The arm was exceedingly shrivelled, it being apparently not more than half the size of the other, and so attenuated were all the muscles, that a most accurate knowledge of the place, direction, &c., of the fracture was at once perceptible to the touch. He was given to