

LONDON SURGICAL HOME.

SEVEN EXAMPLES OF OVARIAN TUMOUR, IN SIX OF WHICH OVARIOTOMY WAS SUCCESSFUL.

(Under the care of Mr. BAKER BROWN.)

THE subject of one of the following cases, a woman under twenty-three years of age, expressed an anxiety as to the possibility of her having a family in the event of marriage at a subsequent period. In relation to this she was assured there was not the slightest obstacle in her case to the accomplishment of such a result. We have met with instances of pregnancy after ovariotomy, and without any inconvenience to the mother or the child; and we have heard Mr. Baker Brown state that in one of his first cases the patient had borne four children after the operation.

Although an unusual circumstance, pregnancy does arise sometimes where an ovarian tumour is present. Such an occurrence is recorded in our pages by Dr. Hunter, of Manchester (*vide* THE LANCET, vol. i. 1861, p. 83); and, what is of remarkable interest in connexion with it, the cyst evacuated itself by the bowel. The case of Dr. Davies, in our present series, is an illustration of pregnancy supervening upon ovarian disease, terminating, at the full period, in the birth of a child (now living), with persistence of the ovarian disease in the mother.

The seven following cases make a total of sixteen operations for ovariotomy performed at the London Surgical Home; of which number twelve have been successful. The great success here obtained, we think, has to some extent depended upon the course of preparatory treatment which the patients underwent, consisting of warm baths twice a week for three weeks prior to operative measures, and the administration of a combination of the tincture of arnica and muriated tincture of iron during the same period, with attention to the general health:—

CASE 1. *Unilocular tumour*.—L. H.—, aged twenty-one, single, admitted Aug. 29th, 1861. She has had the tumour two years; has been tapped twice, the last time four gallons of clear fluid being drawn off. Operated upon on Sept. 19th. The tumour was devoid of adhesions, and was easily drawn out. The pedicle was secured by a clamp, which was removed on the third day, and the pedicle allowed to return. The patient never had a bad symptom, had only one grain of opium, and left the Home Oct. 31st, cured. The tumour was unilocular.

CASE 2. *Polycystic tumour*.—F. W.—, aged nineteen, admitted Oct. 7th, 1861. Has had the tumour two years. She came here as kitchen-maid, when it was first discovered in conversation with the nurse. Operation performed on Oct. 24th. The tumour was devoid of adhesions, and the pedicle treated as in Case 1. Two grains of opium were given, and she did well without a bad symptom, and will soon leave the Home. The tumour was multilocular, but chiefly composed of one large cyst, containing fourteen pints of fluid, which with the solid matter weighed about twenty pounds.

CASE 3. *Polycystic tumour*.—C. S.—, aged forty-nine, married, admitted Sept. 9th, 1861. She has had the tumour six years; has been twice tapped, once by Mr. Birkett, the second time on Sept. 12th, when twenty-five pints of dark-brown, coffee-coloured fluid of thick consistence were drawn off. She was operated upon on Oct. 31st. There was some adhesion in the direction of the liver, which was secured with a ligature of Indian hemp, and several other slight adhesions, which were easily broken down. The pedicle was treated as in Case 1. The patient did pretty well till Nov. 2nd, when peritonitis seemed coming on. This, however, succumbed to treatment, and she is now convalescent. She had five grains of opium. The tumour was multilocular, and composed of two large cysts with very thin walls, containing eleven or twelve pints of fluid and several masses of solid cysts, varying in size from that of a walnut to an orange.

CASE 4. *Polycystic tumour*.—M. A. M.—, aged fifty, married, admitted October 14th, 1861; is the mother of six children, of rather a worn constitution, and of a desponding temperament. Has had the tumour three years; never been tapped. Operated upon on the 31st of October. There were no adhesions in front, but there was one in the direction of the liver, and it was also attached to the whole surface of the fundus of the uterus. There was great difficulty in extracting the tumour,—firstly, because it was of the nature of honey-comb cysts, and although pierced in several places hardly any fluid escaped; and secondly, because the tumour had modeled itself to the cavity of the pelvis. The pedicle was so large that

it had to be divided into five separate portions, one of which was secured by a clamp, and the others each by a double ligature. All these were retained outside. The patient had three grains of opium, but never rallied, and sank forty hours after the operation. The tumour weighed 6 lb. 14½ oz., and the surface from which the pedicle had been cut off measured 5½ in. by 3 in. The autopsy showed partial general peritonitis, the pedicle was covered with clots, and there was some blood in the peritoneum. The liver, heart, &c., were healthy and full of blood. Nothing was found sufficient to account for death. Patient evidently died from shock.

CASE 5. *Unilocular tumour*.—M. T.—, aged twenty-three, single, admitted October 16th, 1861. Has had the tumour two years. Operated on October 31st. No adhesions; pedicle treated as in Case 1. Had one grain of opium, and never a bad symptom; is now quite convalescent. The tumour weighed nearly a pound, one large cyst containing twenty-three pints of perfectly clear colourless fluid. On the internal surface were studded thousands of smaller cysts.

CASE 6. *Polycystic tumour*.—S. D.—, aged twenty-seven, single, admitted Oct. 15th, 1861. Has had the tumour fifteen months. Was tapped last June by Dr. Braxton Hicks, who drew off seventeen pints of fluid; tapped a second time by Mr. Brown, who drew off thirty-three pints of fluid. She then measured forty-five inches around the umbilicus. Operated on Nov. 14th. The adhesions were so powerful that the cyst was cut through in the third incision, which was made in the linea alba. One band of adhesions was ligatured; the pedicle secured with a clamp, and treated as in Case 1. The tumour was very multilocular, weighed 7 lb. 2 oz., and contained twenty-two pints of fluid. She has never had a bad symptom; neither a grain of opium nor any other medicine was required. The wound was perfectly healed in a week.

CASE 7. *Polycystic tumour*.—K. E. S.—, aged eighteen years, admitted Oct. 28th, 1861. Has observed the tumour between three and four months. Has not menstruated for eight months. Has never been tapped. Operated on Nov. 21st. On making the median incision, a piece of the descending colon presented itself in front and at the lower part of the tumour, and was adherent to the abdominal parietes. The adhesions were very powerful and extensive. The uterus was much drawn up, and intimately connected with the pedicle, which was inordinately long and thick; and in cutting off the latter after it had been secured by the clamp, a small portion of the right corner of the uterus was snipped. This bled profusely, and the wound had to be secured by six small silver sutures. The general hæmorrhage was unusually great. Up to the present time (Nov. 28th) the patient has not had a bad symptom, and three grains of opium have been administered.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.

UNILOCULAR OVARIAN TUMOUR IN A WOMAN WHO HAD BORNE SIX CHILDREN; OVARIOTOMY; RECOVERY.

(Under the care of Mr. BORLASE CHILDS.)

THE fact is one of interest in the following case, that the patient had ceased child-bearing twelve years, and was the mother of six children; the catamenia had ceased for six years, and the tumour commenced to grow a year before admission, at a period when ovarian excitement has generally passed away. Although her age was fifty, the operation was not followed by a single untoward symptom.

In the other example, a woman aged forty, it is matter for surprise that she progressed so favourably as she did for a time, considering the formation of local collections of pus in the abdomen. The wound, however, had perfectly healed.

For the notes of the first of the following cases we are indebted to Dr. John Warner, the resident medical officer:—

Ellen D.—, aged fifty, a well-nourished Irishwoman, who has always enjoyed good health, was admitted August 28th, 1861, suffering from ovarian dropsy. The abdomen was greatly distended, and universally dull on percussion over the anterior part, with distinct fluctuation, leading to the diagnosis that the disease was unilocular, and contained a thin fluid. She has been a widow the last two years and a half; had been married twenty-three years, and has had six children, the youngest of whom is twelve years old. The catamenia were regular up to about six years ago, since which they have not appeared, nor has she been subject to any other discharge. She first noticed the enlargement of her abdomen twelve months ago by find-