

# THORACOPAGUS: AN UNUSUAL CAUSE OF DYSTOCIA. REPORT OF A CASE.

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No apology is necessary for bringing to the attention of the profession details of an unusual fetal dystocia which, from its rarity, if for no other reason, is of especial interest.

Double monsters, for purposes of classification, are divided into three groups (Williams): (1) Dipagus, (2) Ischio-craniopagus, and (3) Thoracopagus.

While Williams speaks of the great difficulty of delivering all of these cases, he claims a comparative degree of ease in effecting the delivery of the third group, due to some degree of advantage give "of the portion connecting the twins."

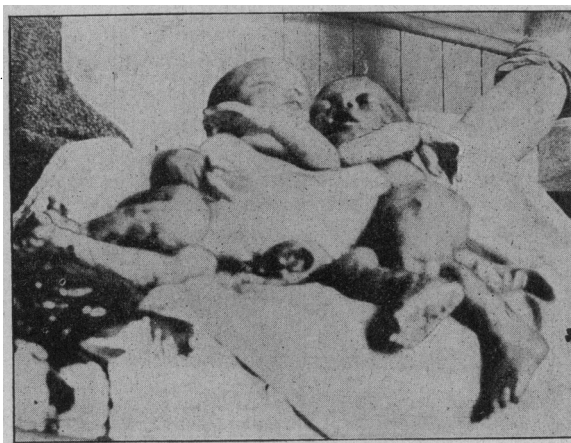
This case is of particular interest because of the close similarity between the actual mode of delivery and appearance of the children as compared with the academic description of such cases. We can find, in the literature, only four cases of this type of fetal dystocia, during the year 1916.

Mrs. L., 31 years old. Italian. Family history negative. Obstetrical history, five children, born normally. Past history, negative. Present condition: on April 1 was brought into the hospital, after 12 hours of labor. On entrance, pulse 96, temperature 98, respiration 26. Patient was in good condition and having good contractions. Attempts at delivery by a physician outside had resulted in the birth of the head and one shoulder of a good-sized child, which was dead.

Vaginal examination by Dr. DeWolf, soon after entrance, showed what appeared to be a hard mass connected with the child's sternum and tightly wedged under the pubic arch, preventing all further progress. This mass felt as if it might be an outgrowth of the sternum, possibly an osteoma. It was noticed that the child had a hare lip. Abdominal examination showed a uterus in tetanic spasm, the contractions, or rather contraction, being very severe. The only fetal part which could be felt was a large, hard, round mass in the right lower quadrant, which was believed to be either a second head, or possibly some abnormal growth (as an osteoma of the sacrum) of a single monster. No extremities could be felt.

As it was evident that it was impossible to deliver the infant by traction, and intra-vaginal manipulation being impossible on account of the size of the child's body, it was decided to amputate the infant below the scapulae. This done, a hand inserted into the uterus easily delivered the legs and pelvis of the child by version, when it became evident that the infant's body was connected with a second one within the uterus. It was now possible to do a version on the second fetus, though the extraction of the posterior shoulder and head were both difficult.

It was now seen that the supposed osteoma from the chest wall of the first child was the band con-



necting the two, which extended from the upper part of the sternum to the umbilicus, there being but one cord and placenta. The children thus were facing each other, connected by a skin and cartilaginous band.

Both fetuses were perfectly formed (except as noted below) and of the female sex. Their total weight was 11 lbs., 12 oz. They were connected along the entire length of the thorax, with about three cm. of tissue, in the band which joined them, the exact nature of which was not determined, as the specimen was preserved intact. The nourishment had been derived from one placenta, through one cord. As stated before, one fetus had a hare lip. Just below the umbilicus there was a failure to close the skin of the abdominal wall of each fetus, resulting in an extrusion of the intestine. The patient had an uneventful recovery, and was discharged two weeks after entrance.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY.

- Williams: Ischiopagus, *Am. Jour. Gyn. and Obst.*, 1916.  
Pirrung: Dicephalus, *Lancet-Clinic*, 1916.  
Herrgolt: Delivery of Double-Headed Child, *Ann. de gynec. et d'obst.*, 1916.

## Book Review.

*Applied Immunology.* By B. A. THOMAS, A.M., M.D., and R. H. IVY, M.D., D.D.S. Second edition revised. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1916.

The first edition of this monograph from the William Pepper Laboratory of Clinical Medicine, was reviewed in the issue of the *JOURNAL* for October 28, 1915 (Vol. clxxiii, p. 673). The early publication of this second edition is evidence that the book has met a professional demand for a practical, concise presentation of the more important phases of immunology and prophylactic, diagnostic and therapeutic applications of sera and bacterins. A number of additions have been made to the text of this new edition and some new matter is interpolated. The illustrations and appendices remain as before.