

## SELECT CLINICAL REPORT.

*(Under this heading are recorded, singly or in groups, cases to which a special interest attaches either from their unusual character or from being, in a special sense, typical examples of their class).*

---

### Appendicitis Twenty-four Hours After Labour.

By EDWIN CHILL, M.D.

THE following case of appendicitis after labour is worth recording as a rare complication of the puerperal state:—

Louisa B., aged 28 years, a thin, anæmic-looking woman, who had been married 10 months, was delivered of her first child on July 14 1909. The labour was quite normal till the head descended on the perineum, when, owing to inertia uteri, the patient was delivered by forceps, under chloroform. This was easily accomplished without perineal rupture. On the 15th, and as nearly as possible 24 hours after childbirth, the mother was seized with violent pains in the epigastric region, spasmodic in character, and accompanied by gaseous eructations. The temperature and pulse were normal, the uterus well contracted and free from pain or tenderness. A history was now obtained of similar paroxysms of pain at intervals for seven years previous to marriage, but that no such attacks had occurred during the period of pregnancy. The symptoms pointing to gastric or biliary colic, a hypodermic injection of morphia was administered, and the lower bowel was emptied of both flatus and fæces by means of a turpentine enema. In spite of this and the continuance of opiates with belladonna, the pains were but slightly relieved, and spread during the night from the epigastrium to the right iliac fossa. On the following morning the paroxysms were less severe, but the whole abdomen was tender (more so over the region of the appendix), distended and tympanitic; frequent vomiting and absolute constipation were present. Respiration was rapid, temperature 100°, and pulse 120. As the symptoms now pointed to acute appendicitis, followed by general peritonitis, she was removed to the Ealing Cottage Hospital, where the abdomen was opened, and the appendix, which was found thickened and perforated at its base, was removed by the honorary operating surgeon the day after the onset of the epigastric pains. The double event of instrumental labour and abdominal operation proved too much for the patient, and she died on the following morning.