

Pinto (V. J.)

The puerperium.



THE PUERPERIUM.

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To the Editor of the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Journal :

SIR : I desire to bring to the notice of my *confrères* a few cases in which diseases were cut short by simple means, in order that those who have more considerable practice may try them and compare the results.

1. *After-pains due to Retroflexion.*—Mrs. C, aged twenty-one, on the second day of her third confinement complained of very severe after-pains which did not yield to various medicines, and even to quinine in large doses. Vaginal examination revealed retroflexion of the uterus, which was reduced by laying the patient on her face, and the pains stopped, but on changing the position they recurred. The former decubitus having been therefore maintained for three consecutive days, allowing the patient to occasionally lie on her sides, she was completely cured.

2. *Retention of Placenta due to Tough Membranes.*—Mrs. P., aged twenty-five, had the membranes left untouched during her first and second labors until they protruded through the vulva, and the placenta had to be detached by Credé's method. In her third labor they were ruptured just before the full dilatation of the os to prevent uterine fatigue, and the third stage of the labor was normal.

3. *Inflammation of the Breast treated by Suction.*—Mrs. P., aged twenty-six, on the thirteenth day of her third confinement had a severe pain in the right breast attended with fever and spontaneous flow of milk. In spite of fomentations, the symptoms became worse, the increase of fever being preceded by a chill. The flow of milk stopped, the breast enlarged, a portion of it, of a pyramidal shape, being indurated and tender. By oral suction at the nipple about two tablespoonfuls of blood were drawn at about 11 A. M. on the following day, and all the symptoms gradually disappeared, so that by the evening the gland regained its natural size and functions.

4. *Puerperal Inflammation arrested by expressing the Blood out.*—Mrs. N., aged thirty-five, on the second day of her fifth confinement



lost the child; on the fourth had pain in the hypogastric region, fever, and diminution of lochial discharge. Being worse on the following day, it was resolved to apply leeches, but on finding by palpation the uterus enlarged, it was held after Credé's method of extracting the placenta, and about three ounces of blood were drawn by gentle compression and the patient improved rapidly.

This case and the preceding one show that timely application of vacuum and compression avoided local depletion by other means.

5. *Post-partum Hæmorrhage due to Suckling*.—Mrs. A., aged thirty-three, of nervous temperament, had a laceration on more than half of the neck of the uterus in her fourth labor due to meddlesome interference of the midwife, which bled profusely when the newborn child was put to the breast on the second day. The hæmorrhage was stopped by suitable means. When it was found that suckling induced the bleeding it was discontinued for two days, and on again taking the child to the breast there was no hæmorrhage.

This case shows that in women of nervous temperament suckling produces hæmorrhage when there is much laceration, as noticed above.

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