Clinical and other Notes

IMPROMPTU CÆSARIAN SECTION AT KASAULI.

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The following case is reported as one of interest: Nahoo, a native woman, aged 30, who had had six previous normal confinements, commenced labour at 2 p.m. on April 23, 1922. At one and a half hours April 24, 1922, a hand presented and was drawn down by the native midwives in attendance. They applied almost continuous traction on the hand until ten hours, four of them taking it in turn to attempt delivery by this means. At ten hours they got frightened and sent for medical assistance. I saw the case and found the woman in a very small and dirty house in the Bazaar. A right hand deeply cyanosed was presenting and extending from the vulva up to the elbow. The head was lying in the right transverse position, occiput posterior, the presentation being now a typical impacted transverse. The uterus was contracting very strongly. The patient was removed to the cantonment hospital where I attempted to replace the hand and perform version under chloroform anesthesia. The attempt failed, and fearing rupture of the uterus, I sent for Lieut.-Col. Ryan, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.H.S., R.A.M.C., he also attempted replacement and version but failed. The uterus was now showing marked signs of rupturing with well marked retraction ring, we decided on immediate Cæsarian section. At eleven hours the operation was successfully performed by Lieut.-Col. Ryan, and a living male child delivered. The placenta was on the anterior wall. The uterus was then well douchèd out and closed. The child's arm was deeply cyanosed to the shoulder joint, but not paralysed or dislocated.

A catheter had to be passed that evening, and for three days after. Next morning a vaginal douche and enema were given.

The wound was dressed on the third day. On the evening of which severe bronchitis developed, but cleared up in eight days under treatment.

The stitches were removed on the eighth day when firm union was found to have taken place. Convalescence was uneventful.

The chief points of interest are:

(1) The absence of sepsis after free handling for twelve hours by native midwives under very septic conditions.

(2) The birth of a living male child after ten and a half hours' impaction.

(3) The absence of brachial paralysis or dislocation of the child's arm after prolonged and vigorous traction.

(4) The rapid convalescence in spite of complications in a case already exhausted prior to operation.

This is the fourth successful case of Cæsarian section performed here during the last two years.