

CASE OF HÆMORRHAGE INTO UMBILICAL CORD, CAUSING HYDRAMNIOS AND DEATH OF FŒTUS.

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Mrs. S., primipara, aged 21, whose pregnancy had progressed favourably until the eighth month, began to show signs and symptoms of hydramnios; abdomen became very prominent, tense and globular in shape; a distinct percussion thrill could be felt, the foetal parts were ill-defined, and the foetal heart sounds, which had been heard quite distinctly from four and a half months onwards, now became inaudible. Urine was scanty, but not albuminous. Under appropriate treatment, rest and diuretics, the abdominal circumference was reduced on an average about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch daily. At eight and a half months the patient was delivered of a dead male foetus, weighing about 7 lbs., and it was then seen what had been the cause of the hydramnios and death of foetus. About 12 inches from the umbilicus there was a swelling on the cord about the size and shape of a small hen's egg. When this was cut open it was found to be a solid clot of blood, which had escaped from and was partially distending the umbilical vein, and exerting pressure on the umbilical arteries, thereby entirely cutting off the circulation. The cause of the hæmorrhage was not very evident; the cord seemed to be quite normal in strength and appearance, except that it was somewhat thicker than usual. The epidermis had peeled off parts of the foetus, and the head bones were very loose, the foetus apparently having been dead for several days. The mother passed through an uneventful puerperium, the fundus uteri reaching brim of pelvis on thirteenth day, and made a good recovery.

BILHARZIA DISEASE IN MIDDELBURG, TRANSVAAL.

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THERE were no less than nine admissions for this disease among the garrison of Middelburg, Transvaal, between July 21st, 1906, and September 16th of the same year. All the cases were contributed by the 3rd Middlesex Regiment. This unit arrived at the station on January 12th, 1904. They had bathing parades at the Klein Oliphants River, just outside the town, once a week, about 6 a.m., between October and February.

According to a local practitioner, the disease, otherwise known as endemic hæmaturia, is very prevalent among the civilian population, especially among boys from 7 to 16 years of age, both European and native; it is generally attributed to bathing in the Klein Oliphants River, and has been greatly on the increase.