THE MIDWIVES' UNION SECTION

Hon. Secretary—Miss S. M. Round (Sister Frieda) All Saints' Dispensary, Pennel, Dr. Colaba, Bombay.

Members are asked to send any helpful notes of cases, and articles for this Section to the Secretary.

ANAEMIA OF PREGNANCY WITH POST PARTEM HAEMORRHAGE AND WHITE LEG

By MARGARET LOADER. Student Nurse

Case of Anaemia of Pregnancy

Date of admission. 21-4-39.
Chief complaint. Heart palpitation and syncope, severe anaemia and oedema of both legs.
After a course of Ferri et arsenic and digitalin, with complete rest, the patient went home in an improved condition on the 27-4-39.
Re-admitted on 5-5-39, in the first stage of labour, in a collapsed condition, and a history of fainting during pains.
Past history. Attacks of heart palpitation and fainting attacks.
C.B. History. Para 1, 2, 3, 4, F.T.N.L. All living and well.
Para 5. Died of pneumonia at three years.
Para 6. 7½ months amenorrhoea.
General condition. Weak, anaemic. Tongue and teeth dirty.
Breasts satisfactory. Lungs N.A.D.
Heart. Soft systolic murmur in pulmonary area.
P.A. Spleen and liver not enlarged. Height of uterus 5 fingers below X. Foetal heart heard. Head above the brim. No overlapping.
P.V. Cervix soft. 2 fingers dilatation. Membranes not felt.
Pelvic angle normal. Moderate pelvic deformity.
Urine. N.A.D.
Blood Pressure. 110/80.
1. Mis Quinine 2 drs. ½ hourly for 6 doses.
2. Pituitrin ms. 3. Given hypodermically ½ hourly 6 doses.
Pains improved in strength and frequency after the quinine and pituitrin.
Vaginal examination done at 9 p.m. Os 2 fingers loose, head
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still well above the brim. Membranes ruptured artificially, and pituitrin \( \frac{1}{2} \) c.c. repeated every half an hour.

Morphia grs. \( \frac{1}{2} \) given hypodermically, and chloroform given to the patient as she was very restless.

Patient slept well all night, and in the morning had very slight labour pains.

7-5-39. 5 p.m. P.V. done by doctor. Os 3 fingers dilated.

Head still floating above the brim.

Manual dilation of the cervix was done under G.A. and Willett’s forceps applied to the head of the baby, with no result.

Forceps delivery attempted, but head too high and movable.

Version done and baby delivered as a breech. Placenta delivered spontaneously. Placenta and membranes complete. Perineum intact.

Bleeding normal in labour room.

1. Ergotamine grs. 1/100 given by hypo.
2. Pituitrin .5 c.c.
3. Cardisol .5 c.c.


8.30 p.m. Patient had delayed P.P.H. Hot douche given.
Vagina packed.

Pituitrin .5 c.c. and ergotamine grs. 1/100 repeated.

Bleeding still continued, and the condition of the patient very poor. Uterus repacked under G.A.

Pulse rate now 140, so digitalin grs. 1/100 given.

Murphy drip 3 pints, saline by breast 2 pints given.

Pot. Brom and chloral 1 oz. per rectum.

Patient had bad after-pains and slept fairly well until 3 a.m. when signs of heart failure were noticed.

Digitalin, strychnine and brandy, urobrom, given.

9-5-39 Patient slept very little, was restless and delirious.

Paraldehyde, urobrom and digitalin given.

Gradual improvement in the patient’s condition until 21-5-39 when she complained of pain in the left glutal region.

Slight rise of temperature, more pain each day until 26-5-39 when swelling was noticed in left leg increasing each day.

Daily decrease of swelling from \( \frac{1}{2} \) to 1 inch daily.

The patient’s condition is much improving. Anaemia less.

She eats well and sleeps well and has no palpitations.

10-6-39. Patient allowed out of bed for her first bath.

**General nursing care given**

1. Absolute rest in a bed in semi Fowler’s position in a separate room, with no relations or visitors.

2. Bed sponging and treatment for all pressure points four hourly.

3. Glucose water given freely in small quantities for the first two days as patient vomited everything else. Then milk, Benger’s
sago, kichcheri, peptolac, soup, glucose D. and fruit juice given two hourly.
4. Temperature charted two hourly for two days, then four hourly. Pulse recorded 2 hourly for the first two days.
5. Urine measured and recorded.
6. Bowels regulated with mild purgatives and enema saponis p.r.n.
7. Sleep. A careful record of sleep was made, as patient slept badly and was often delirious,
8. Murphy drip and saline by breast saline.
9. Other drugs used were:—Mist. Ferri arsenicalis for anaemia.
Campolon also for anaemia.
Sulphonamide for the toxic condition.
Pulv. digitalis and coramine for the heart.
Adexolin.
10. When the patient developed it was painted with ichthyol and glycerine and kept in between sandbags, raised on a pillow with a bed cradle.
11. The uterus involuted well, the daily decrease being \( \frac{1}{2} \) to 1 inch.

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