

MIDWIVES' UNION PAGE

HÆMORRHAGE DURING PREGNANCY

The Uterus of a pregnant woman should not bleed until the placental hæmatoma comes away on conclusion of the third stage of labour. Therefore any bleeding before that time is abnormal, and should in all cases be brought to the notice of a doctor. Pending his arrival it is the duty of a nurse to put the patient to bed and keep her as quiet as possible. The important points to be noted are:—

- (a) The period of amenorrhœa
- (b) When the bleeding commenced and whether it was occasioned by the patient's activity.
- (c) The amount of blood lost
- (d) Whether the bleeding is continuous
- (e) The temperature and pulse of the patient

The nurse should have prepared in readiness for the doctor:—

1. Plenty of boiling and cold water
2. Cotton wool or other swabs in antiseptic
3. A douche and a receptacle for used lotion, etc.

Instruments and gloves will in all probability be provided by the doctor but the nurse must be ready to sterilize them ready for his use. At the present time we do not markedly differentiate between the meaning of the terms 'Abortion and Miscarriage' but it might be as well to explain that the expulsion of an ovum which occurs at any time up to the end of the twelfth week of pregnancy is an abortion, and an expulsion of the ovum which occurs from the end of the twelfth week to the end of the twenty-seventh week is a "Miscarriage." In the later condition there is also a placenta to be expelled—but not so in the former condition. This constitutes the difference. Any bleeding which occurs from the 27th week to full term is called *Antepartum Hæmorrhage*, and except in rare cases takes place from the placenta.

Antipartum hæmorrhage can be sub-divided into two classes:—

- (1) *Accidental hæmorrhage* when the placenta is in its normal position on the uterine wall.
- (2) *Placenta Praevia* when the placenta is situated partially or completely in the lower uterine segment. The bleeding of this condition is spoken of as "Inevitable."

There are two other conditions which will cause bleeding—both during the early months of pregnancy. These are (1) Ectopic Gestation. (2) Hydatidiform Mole.

Ectopic Gestation.—Occasionally the fertilized ovum becomes embedded and develops in the Fallopian tube instead of in the uterus and will continue to increase in size—at the same time stretching the walls of the tube until they cannot stretch any farther, then it bursts through the tube into either the

peritoneal cavity or between the folds of the broad ligament. This is a very serious condition and causes severe internal hæmorrhage. This condition usually takes place when pregnancy has continued about six or seven weeks. The bleeding per vagina is usually very slight but is accompanied by severe abdominal pain and the signs of internal bleeding. An immediate abdominal section is necessary for the removal of the burst tube and drainage of the peritoneal cavity.

Hydatidiform Mole is a condition caused by disease of the chorion and instead of an ovum—the uterus is filled with thousands of little cysts on stalks each of which is filled with a clear fluid.

The uterus is always larger than one would expect for the period of amenorrhœa and is also firmer to the touch.

Occasionally a malignant disease "Chorion Epithelioma" follows that of Hydatidiform Mole, any time from six months to two years after the removal of the Mole.

FOR THE QUIET HOUR

SINCERITY

In reading through the daily correspondence, it is impossible not to be impressed sooner or later with the constant use of the uniform conclusion to letter after letter of "Yours sincerely." Occasionally a variation appears in the obsequious "Yours faithfully," or the even more servile "Yours obediently," but the normal close of epistles from friend and acquaintance is ever the hackneyed expression of sincerity.

The continual use of the adverb has undoubtedly robbed it of much of its significance, but the value and beauty of the substantive have only been enhanced thereby.

Sincerity is one of the cardinal virtues. A reputation for sincerity stamps an individual as transparently genuine, single of purpose, and free from the petty dissimulations and hypocrisies of life. It is the hallmark of nobility and integrity.

From an etymological standpoint, the word "sincerity" is self-illustrative. Derived from the two Latin words *sine*, without, and *sera*, wax (giving the English verb, *cere*, to cover with wax), the correct meaning is obviously to be without wax. Immediately, the dual picture of the dishonest beekeeper and the unscrupulous sculptor is conjured up.

Preparing his honey for sale, the beekeeper of the day (like his successor of to-day in some instances), instead of scrupulously freeing his honey from the wax to which it adhered, would allow some to remain and thereby increase the weight. The honest merchant, on the other hand, would only display honey which had been entirely freed from wax.

Engaged upon an important statue, the sculptor would at times suffer the misfortune of chipping a finished corner through the slipping of the chisel.