

ARTICLE VI.—*Parturition Complicated with Whooping-cough and Pleurisy: Recovery.* By WM. J. BEATTY, L.R.C.P., etc., Stockton-on-Tees.

(Read before the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society, 28th June 1882.)

MRS S., æt. 29, who had engaged me to attend her in her fourth confinement, sent for me on Sunday evening, 2nd July, not for her labour, but for an acute pain in the right side, which she said was like a knife going into her when she breathed or coughed. She had been attacked with whooping-cough three weeks previous, and the paroxysms were very severe; this disease being evidently contracted from her children, who all had it, as well as others in the same house.

On examining my patient, I found the breathing quick, shallow, and irregular, numbering 35 in the minute; the pulse at the same time being 110, full and bounding; temperature 102.5, diminished thoracic movement on the right side.

*Percussion* sounds normal.

*Auscultation* gave a well-marked friction sound on the right side, which became inaudible when she, at my request, ceased breathing for a time; this friction sound being confined to one small circumscribed spot in the right infra-mammary region. Face puffy, legs œdematous, urine scanty and thick, and loaded with albumen.

Before I left at 8 o'clock I examined per vaginam, and found the os undilated, but the liquor amnii was escaping.

*Treatment.*—Gave an opiate, put a broad bandage round the thorax to keep the parts at rest, and ordered hot fomentations to be diligently applied to the affected side, and told her friends that her labour would probably come on in a few hours, when I was to be sent for; and at 7 o'clock the next morning I found the pains strong with the head well down on the perinæum, and an hour after my arrival she gave birth to a strong, healthy male child.

She still complained of the pleuritic pain, but said she was much easier than when I left her the night before. After her delivery she improved from day to day, the breathing became more natural, ranging from 28 on the evening of the day of her delivery, to 18 on the fourth day afterwards; the pulse from 102 on the first day to 80 on the fourth. During this period the friction sound was still heard more or less, and the cough troublesome, but became less from day to day. She never whooped, and the case ended in her perfect recovery eleven days after her confinement.

*Remarks.*—This case caused me much anxiety, as the complications were really very formidable, and I confess I was rather surprised to find my patient recover so rapidly. Perhaps the pleurisy was cut short by the usual "loss" after childbirth, and, if so, are we right in not bleeding our patients in inflammation of the lungs or their serous envelope? Strange, too, that she lost her whoop!