

*Case of Paralytic Affection, in which Sensation was diminished on one side, and the power of Motion on the other.*

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Mrs. W. was delivered by a midwife at Kilburn. Her labor was easy, but followed by profuse hæmorrhage upon the separation of the placenta, and after its exclusion from the uterus.

She revived from the state of exhaustion immediately consequent on the loss of blood, but at the end of about three or four days became feverish, and complained of severe headach; for a week, however, she had no other assistance than that of the midwife.

At the end of this time (about ten days after her delivery) the headach continuing, and being now accompanied by some degree of "numbness on one side," I was requested to see her.

I found her laboring under severe headach, not confined to, but infinitely more violent on

one side than the other, and occupying the region of the temporal and occipital bones above the mastoid process, and attended with considerable pulsation.

On one side of the body there was such defective sensibility, without, however, corresponding diminution of power in the muscles of volition, that she could hold her child on the arm of that side so long as her attention was directed to it ; but if surrounding objects withdrew her from the notice of the state of the arm, the flexors gradually relaxed, and the child was in hazard of falling. The breast, too, upon that side, partook of the insensibility, although the secretion of milk was as copious as in the other. She could see the child sucking and swallowing, but she had no consciousness from feeling that the child was so occupied : turgescence of that breast produced no suffering, and she was unconscious of what is termed the *draught* on this side, although that sensation was strongly marked in the other breast.

Upon the opposite side of the body there was defective power of motion, without, however, any diminution of sensibility. The arm was incapable of supporting the child ; the hand was powerless in its gripe ; and the leg was moved with difficulty, and with the ordinary rotatory movement of a paralytic patient ; but the power of sensation was so far from being impaired, that she constantly complained of an uncomfortable sense of heat, a painful tingling, and more than the usual degree of uneasiness from pressure, or other modes of slight mechanical violence.

Medicinal agents, including blood-letting, general and local ; blisters ; purgatives, &c., directed, first by myself, afterwards by Dr. P. M. Latham, to whose care I directed her in the Middlesex Hospital, were of little avail, and she at length left the hospital, scarcely, if at all, benefited.

At the end of a few months she again proved pregnant. Her delivery, at the full time, was easy and unaccompanied by hæmorrhage, or other formidable occurrence, but at the expiration of about ten days she complained of numbness on both sides. Her articulation was indistinct : she became more and more insensible, and sunk completely comatose.

Upon examination of the body no positive disorganization of the brain could be detected. The ventricles, however, contained more than usual serum ; and there were found, more especially opposite to the original seat of pain, thickening, and increased vascularity of the membranes, with moderately firm adhesion in some parts ; in others, an apparently gelatinous, transparent, and colorless deposit interposed between them.

Such is the outline of a case which I have been in the habit of quoting in my lectures, as an illustration of one of the pathological conditions which I have repeatedly observed as a consequence of great and sudden loss of blood ; and as a proof that it is a state of local congestion allied, if not amounting to, actual inflammation. • It, however, obviously involves many other interesting points connected with these intricate subjects.