

CASE OF EXTRA-UTERINE CONCEPTION.

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THE following are the particulars of a case of extra-uterine conception, which lately fell under my observation.

Mrs. G—, æt. 26, a newly-married lady, following the profession of an actress, who had previously had three children by a former husband, and had suffered from several abortions, was married last January, and became pregnant about the month of March. In the middle of May she was seized with uterine hæmorrhage, and in a few days she aborted, and recovered by the assistance of the remedies usually prescribed in such cases. About the latter end of July she was again seized with flooding, attend-

ed with severe pain in the hypogastric region, and which occurred to so alarming an extent as to frighten all her friends. She was doubtful as to whether she was again pregnant; she had menstruated about a month after her last abortion, but had passed over the second period without any "show" of the catamenial discharge. She had all the constitutional symptoms of pregnancy—such as heartburn, sickness of the stomach, &c. The diluted sulphuric acid, with infusion of roses, and the occasional use of sedatives and purgatives, were the remedies employed. She continued in this state for about a fortnight, with excessive menstrual discharge; and, from the large pieces of coagula which had passed, it was doubtful whether she had or had not miscarried. During this last attack Dr. Merriman saw her, in consultation with myself, who was also doubtful as to whether she had aborted. She refused to submit to an examination per vaginam. However, she apparently recovered; so much so, that she had been able to take much exercise; and on August 17th she had been with her husband to Dulwich, returned home in the afternoon, and entertained some friends to dinner, in apparent good health. About ten o'clock the next morning, as she was in the act of dressing herself, she was suddenly seized with a severe pain in the lower part of the abdomen (increased upon pressure), followed by syncope. Mr. Painter, a respectable practitioner in Howland-Street, was immediately sent for, who, on his arrival, found the pulse beating faintly, the skin cold, the lips and countenance excessively bleached; in-

dicating that there was some internal hæmorrhage. He judiciously directed stimulants and applications to restore the natural warmth of the body, but they produced no benefit whatever. At five o'clock these symptoms became more alarming, and the vital powers continued to diminish until the time I saw her, which was about half-past twelve, when the pulse could not be felt at the wrist; and in an hour after my arrival she expired.

Examination post-mortem.—I examined the body about fifty-four hours after death, in presence of Drs. Merriman and Robert Lee, and Mr. Painter.

On opening the abdomen, we found between two and three quarts of blood in its cavity. On removing this, was found a tumor attached to the right fallopian tube, which, upon further examination, was found to be an extra-uterine conception of about ten weeks. There was a small laceration of the sac, from which the fatal hæmorrhage had occurred. The embryo was perfect, with its umbilical cord and placenta. The uterus was somewhat enlarged, but healthy, and upon passing a probe through the fallopian tube there was no obliteration to account for the occurrence. A remarkable fact was observed in this case—that in the uterus no desiduous membrane was formed, as has generally been stated to be the case in similar instances, but the existence of which membrane in these cases has always been doubted by my friend Dr. Lee. The interior of the uterus was merely covered by a thin coat of mucus. The ovaria were natural. The right ovarium contained a large corpus

luteum. The liver was enlarged, and unhealthy in its structure. The remaining viscera were healthy.