

- (b) Case 4.—Large suppurating cyst in lung, with decomposing foetid contents.
- (c) Case 12.—Large suppurating cyst of lung; secondary low pneumonia; paracentesis; exhaustion.
- (d) Case 15.—Hydatids of heart, lungs, pulmonary artery, and spleen.
- (e) Suppurating hydatid of pleura: exhaustion.

In the first section, embracing 13 cases, the contents of the cysts were sometimes purulent, sometimes not, but the hydatid disease at most slightly accelerated death. In five cases only was intrathoracic hydatid the direct cause of death.

#### *Cases Complicated with Phthisis.*

These were four in number. In three instances (Cases 2, 9, and 18) the phthisical process proved fatal, and the parasitic growth was wholly independent of the tubercular process. In Case 13 death occurred from uræmia and gangrene of the base of the left lung. The apices of both lungs were in the first stage of catarrhal phthisis, with commencing caseation; there was a large cyst in the right pleura between the lung and the diaphragm, and miliary tubercle had been abundantly deposited under the pleura around the cyst and over the apices of both lungs.

Further remarks concerning this series of cases may be found in the writer's speech at the Medical Society in the discussion upon Dr. Bird's paper, published in the April number of the *Journal*. (*Vide* page 177).

*(To be continued.)*

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#### A CASE OF CANCER DURING LABOUR.

By W. V. JAKINS, L.R.C.P., L.M., Edin., Fell. Obst. Soc. Lond.

On the second of last November, I was called just after midnight to a poor woman in her tenth pregnancy. The eighth and ninth terminated by abortion at the fourth month. As I entered the door the unmistakable smell of cancer presented itself. The patient was at her full term, a small pale emaciated woman, thirty-nine years of age, lying on her left side in strong labour. Her pulse small and feeble. The pains began the day previously, and gradually increased in intensity. On digital examination, a little past the vulva was an irregular fleshy mass about the size of a hen's egg, freely movable in all directions; others smaller existed right up to the os; between them the

vagina was rough, puckered, and indurated. The os was fully open and the head presenting, but almost uninfluenced by the pressure of the pains, which were accompanied by slight hæmorrhage of a bright colour.

Under these circumstances, I determined on quick delivery, for fear of hæmorrhage, to avoid risk of rupture of the uterus or vagina, and to remove all danger from exhaustion.

Without difficulty the vaginal tumour was removed by the hand and presented the usual appearance of vaginal cancer; the smaller ones were left. As the patient was not very sensitive to pain, chloroform was not given. The long forceps were used without difficulty, and an ordinary sized male child was born in a quarter of an hour. The placenta was lying in the uterus and was easily removed.

The discharge was normal in quantity. I could not feel any indurations in the uterus. She made a good recovery. On 29th December I was sent for to see her; she was complaining of much pain in the vagina, which was relieved by small doses of laudanum injected with starch; she was suckling her infant and also giving it food. On 14th of January I treated it for thrush and convulsions; it died on the sixteenth. On the twenty-first the mother was troubled with colliquative diarrhœa, the motions being stained with blood; this had existed for the previous four days and was gradually getting worse; the hæmorrhage fast increased and she died on the twenty-fifth. The vaginal discharge of thin offensive matter tinged with blood lasted from the cessation of the lochia to the time of her death. Her first symptoms of uterine trouble occurred about fourteen months previously; menorrhagia, followed by the catamenia recurring too frequently; then came a watery discharge, which was soon tinged with blood; the discharge gradually became offensive, and she noticed her loss of flesh and consequent weakness. Two medical men attended her at various times during her illness up to within a few weeks of her confinement; she had not the slightest suspicion that she was seriously ill, and was surprised when I told her she was suffering from cancer. On careful cross-examination I could find no history nor suspicion of cancer having occurred among any of her relatives. Her husband was in good health.

Ballarat, 7th May, 1881.

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