
The uterine hemorrhage of pregnancy, and that which occurs within the first hour or two after delivery, are familiar to all accoucheurs, and their causes and treatment are described in every systematic treatise upon midwifery: not so, however, that species of uterine hemorrhage which forms the subject of this paper. It has received little notice, and from only a very few authors; yet it has many claims upon our attention. It is not unfrequent; it may prove dangerous or fatal; the causes that determine its production are various, and consequently the indications of treatment are less plain and simple than in the other kinds of flooding connected with pregnancy or childbirth. Moreover, the circumstances under which it occurs are gene-
rally such as to take the practitioner by surprise, and to create considerable alarm in the minds of the patient and her friends. Coming on, too, as it usually does, very unexpectedly, and at a time when all parties are perhaps beginning to indulge a feeling of satisfaction at her happy escape from the perils of childbirth, an attack of this kind is very much calculated to disturb their composure, and prove a source of great anxiety.

The object of this paper is to present, with some regard to order, and as concisely as possible, the results of my own experience and researches on this complication of the puerperal state. Although I can lay claim to no originality in the following remarks, still I am not without hope that good may be effected by bringing this subject under the notice of accoucheurs in a distinct but comprehensive manner.

It may be well to state, that by the term "Secondary Hemorrhage" I understand any profuse sanguineous discharge from the vagina, commencing after a patient has been six hours delivered, and within a month from this epoch*. The denomination "Menorrhagia lochialis" is employed very much in this sense by some writers, especially by Dr. Burns. I think, however, it should not be thus generically used, but should rather be restricted to the prolonged continuance of red lochial discharge; a sort of hemorrhage, it is true, but materially differing in its nature and treatment from that to which this paper relates.

For some days after mature delivery, the uterus freely permits the escape of blood, unless the conditions normally existing to provide against such an occurrence be strictly complied with. These conditions, upon which so much depends, are, the degree of contraction in the uterine fibres, and the state of

* This definition is in accordance with the rule laid down by Madame Lachappelle: "Après l'accouchement, le nom d'hémorragie doit être réservé à toute perte plus considérable que ne doivent être les lochies, et moins distante de l'état de couches que ne doit être le premier retour de l'évacuation menstruelle."—Pratique des Accouchemens, t. ii. p. 375.