

*The History of an excessive discharge of Water from
the Uterus during Pregnancy; by Dr John
Alexander Physician in Halifax, Yorkshire.*

A Gentlewoman of the age of 30, on Tuesday April 22. 1770, in the latter end of the sixth month of her fifth pregnancy, was suddenly seized with a great weight and oppression in the bottom of the abdomen, so that she was not able to walk up stairs, but was under the necessity of being carried. The morning after this happened, I accidentally called upon her, and found the abdomen considerably larger than it ought to have been for the time. She was scarce able to walk a-cross the room. In the afternoon, she had some labour-pains, and parted with

near a quart of water, which came from her all at once, and continued running from her for seven days successively, from the time of her rising in the morning, till the time of her going to bed at night, so as to wet sixteen or seventeen double cloths every day; but it always ceased when she lay down, either night or day.

On Monday April 29. the running of the water ceased; but her inability to walk still continued. Tuesday May 7. she had a relapse of her disorder; the circumstances of which were in every respect the same as above. May 9. she was able to walk a little by the help of a person to lean upon. In this state she continued parting with water in the manner above related, at intervals of three or four days, when it generally run from her for the space of one day, excepting that part of it when she lay down upon the bed, till the 30th of June. After this time, the water began to run from her every morning, as soon as she got out of bed, and continued all the day, excepting the time she lay down, as before, till within five days of her delivery, which happened on the 15th July. In the evening of July 4. I was sent for again, she appearing to the persons who attended her to be in strong labour. I found her seemingly in extreme pain; the os uteri was

open the size of a shilling or more, and the edges of it were very soft and thin. Her pain pressed down the child against my fingers; the membranes were plainly to be felt before the child's head; but I could not perceive they were in the least protruded. In about two hours, the pain entirely left her, and she was as well as usual. I was sent for again the following evening, and found her exactly in the same situation, excepting that her pains were something stronger. She was seized both nights at the same time, and continued in pain about two hours. After this, I was desired to lie every night at her house, which was at the distance of six miles from me; she kept continually parting with water, as usual, every day, during the time she was out of bed, till July 9. when it stopped again, and ceased for the space of five days, in which time her belly swelled to as large a size as I ever remembered to have seen one in an *ascites*. In the morning of July 14. she was taken ill again, and parted with a greater quantity of water that day than she had ever done before. She began to have slow lingering labour-pains, about ten o'clock that night, which gradually increased till about three in the morning, when I was called up. I found the os uteri much dilated, the waters collecting, and the membranes pushing strongly down; her

pains were very regular and strong ; the membranes came to the os externum before they broke ; and, after two more pains, she was delivered of a large healthy child about five o'clock in the morning. The lady recovered extremely well. Since the above, the same lady has had three children. The circumstances of her pregnancy in each were exactly similar with the above case, except in the following particulars. In the second, the water began to come from her three weeks sooner than in the first ; and her inability to walk was full as bad. In the third, the water began eight weeks sooner than in the first, i. e. in the 4th month of her pregnancy ; but she had longer intermissions, it seldom coming oftener than once in a fortnight, and continuing but one day. In the interval, also, she was as capable of walking or riding as any person in her condition usually is. In the last, the circumstances were exactly similar to the second. The children she had all the times were large and healthy ; she always recovered well.

I boiled some of the water every time, to try if it would coagulate ; but it always evaporated to dryness.

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