

CASE OF PEMPHIGUS RECURRING AFTER FOUR
CONSECUTIVE LABOURS.

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PEMPHIGUS occurring during pregnancy is mentioned as a rare occurrence. Barnes¹ refers to a case which lasted three months and ended in complete recovery after delivery. In another case² it recurred during several successive pregnancies. In all, however, it seems to have disappeared with the termination of the pregnancy. The following case therefore is of some interest from the fact that the eruption on each occasion developed soon after delivery, lasted several weeks, and was entirely absent during pregnancy. It occurred in the outside Maternity Charity of the Leeds General Infirmary.

Mrs. A—, aged thirty-seven. Has had twelve children and one miscarriage. Her husband is healthy, and there is no history of syphilis in husband or wife. Beyond some debility resulting from her numerous confinements she usually enjoys good health. On Nov. 12th, 1886, after a natural and easy labour lasting about six hours, she was delivered of a healthy living child. All went on well for a few days—so well, indeed, that she herself thought she would escape another attack. On the fourth day, however, she felt ill, and in the course of a few hours the eruption broke out. A few blebs appeared first on one arm, which were of various sizes, and contained clear fluid. They subsequently developed in other situations, such as the dorsum of the foot, the back of the neck, and the face. The mucous membranes were not affected. The constitutional disturbance was

¹ System of Obstetrics.

² Quain's Dictionary of Medicine.

slight: there were anorexia, restlessness, and general feeling of malaise, but no rise of temperature. General tonic treatment was prescribed, together with full doses of arsenic. The blebs were pricked and dressed with boracic acid and vaseline. Improvement soon took place, but blebs occasionally appeared, and the disease did not entirely disappear until five or six weeks after the confinement. Following the patient's last three previous confinements, she has had exactly similar attacks; they have usually commenced about the fourth day after delivery, and have lasted for several weeks. The first attack lasted ten weeks; the second also about ten weeks; the third lasted fifteen weeks, and was the most severe of all; the fourth and last was the mildest, and accompanied with less general disturbance than the others.

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