

ROYAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL, EDINBURGH.

SANGUINEOUS EFFUSION INTO THE LEFT LABIUM;
RUPTURE; CURE.

(Reported by Dr. DAVID MURRAY, Resident Surgeon.)

ON Nov. 30th, at midnight, I was called to see Mrs C—, who was said to be in labour with her fifth child. The pupil in attendance came to me in alarm, stating that he found a large tumour presenting externally, the exact nature of which he could not understand. On arriving at the house, I found the patient lying on her back with her knees separated; pulse high, slightly delirious, and suffering great pain. On proceeding to examine, the first thing that presented itself was a tumour, larger than a child's head, completely obscuring the external parts, and rendering an internal examination impossible. It presented a dark red, irregular appearance, glistening, tense, and coursed here and there by black lines. I carefully examined the tumour, and satisfied myself that it was limited to the left labium, and was not, as was first thought, connected with the uterus. Being satisfied that the integuments would soon give way, I merely ordered cold cloths to be applied, and an opiate draught to be given. A few hours afterwards, an opening was formed, as I anticipated, and several pints of dark venous blood were discharged, from which the patient derived immediate relief. I ordered the cold applications to be continued, as there seemed to be a tendency to a re-formation of the tumour. I also ordered her to get some

wine and beef-tea, which had the effect of strengthening her pulse. For a few days longer a slight sanguineous discharge continued to come away, but now nothing exudes but a small quantity of serum. In a few days I expect the opening to be entirely closed. The woman was not in labour. According to her account, she felt during the whole of the day on which the tumour formed, slight pains, which she thought to be premonitions of labour; that on rising about ten P.M. to evacuate the bladder she felt something give way, when this tumour, which she took to be the child's head, suddenly formed.

In a future paper I may make a few general remarks on these sanguineous effusions.