

ON A CASE OF

CHOLERA OCCURRING DURING LABOUR.

DEATH IMMEDIATELY AFTER DELIVERY.

By H. E. EASTLAKE, L.K.Q.C.P.,

PHYSICIAN TO THE BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL, PHYSICIAN-ACCOCUCHEUR TO
THE ST. MARYLEBONE DISPENSARY, ETC.

On the 30th ult., I was hurriedly summoned, at about 8·30 P.M., to see Mrs. U——, aged twenty-one, in her first labour. She resided within a few minutes' walk of my house. I found her in an alarming state of collapse. No pulse was perceptible at the wrists; the extremities were perfectly cold; the countenance pinched and anxious, and a bluish hue was perceptible over the body generally. I was told by the attendant that labour commenced about eleven P.M. on the 29th, and that the most distressing vomiting and purging set in at the same time. The sickness and diarrhoea had therefore continued for more than twenty hours. She had been violently sick shortly before my arrival, and rice-water stools gushed constantly from the bowels. Brandy and beef-tea had both been administered by the mouth, but were almost instantly thrown up. On examination per vaginam, I found the face presenting, and the os uteri fully dilated. The liquor amnii had only escaped about four hours before my arrival. The foetal head was fairly in the cavity of the pelvis, and the left ear was easily within reach. Without further delay I applied the forceps, and delivered the patient without much difficulty of a very large male infant. The child showed no signs of life whatever. The funis was divided, and the placenta passed away within a few minutes of the birth. The uterus contracted very well, and there was not the slightest hæmorrhage. More brandy-and-water was given, but immediately ejected. An offensive watery evacuation now continually trickled from the bowel. The patient's face became ghastly in appearance, and her whole body cold. She was conscious to the last. Her breathing

became hurried; a dark fluid gurgled from her mouth, and she ceased to exist within ten minutes of her delivery.

As far as I can learn she had enjoyed good health during her pregnancy, and had felt well up to the time of setting in of labour.

Welbeck-street, December, 1865.