

A CASE OF QUINTUPLETS.

BY J. MORRIS STOKER, L.R.C.S.I., L.M.

Mrs. Coles, aged 35 years, height 5 ft. 1 in., very slight build, healthy.

Family History.—Her mother gave birth to twins on two occasions; no further family history ascertained.

Past History.—Married six years, and has borne four children at full period, and never had any difficulty in labour.

History of Present Case.—The patient reckoned that she was six months pregnant, and said she could not understand why she felt much bigger than on former occasions. She complained of a fixed pain in her left side, otherwise she felt well up to two days before her confinement. Labour set in on Sunday, October 20, at 10 p.m., and had concluded at 6.45 a.m. Monday, October 21. The pains were regular though not strong, and the contractions good. On my arrival at 3 a.m. the patient was strongly in labour, and on making an examination I found the membranes ruptured, and a shoulder presenting. There was no difficulty in performing version. Child dead (recently). On making an examination, after the birth of the first, I easily became aware of the existence of more than one remaining foetus. The membranes protruded, and became tense at each pain; the presentation was again a transverse one. In this case also there was not much difficulty in effecting internal version. Child alive, and lived a couple of hours. The third foetus was also enclosed in a separate bag, which required to be ruptured, and the breech presented, and was delivered naturally. Child alive and sur-

vived an hour. For the fourth the same procedure of rupturing the membranes was gone through, and directly there was hæmorrhage to an alarming extent, so much so that the mother collapsed. The shoulder presented; I turned as quickly as possible after administering stimulants, but the difficulty did not end here, as the chin became somewhat locked in that of the fifth; there was some difficulty and considerable delay in freeing them, though the extent of the locking was not at any time formidable. Child dead (recently). The fifth was a head and was delivered naturally. Child alive; lived half an hour.

The placenta was delivered about five minutes after the birth of the last child, and consisted of two portions united by a narrow isthmus; one, the smaller, had two cords attached centrally and close together. The other and larger, had two cords attached in a similar way to the former, and one where it was joined by the isthmus; it appeared perfectly healthy. The cord of the fourth child was so short that it had to be tied in the vagina. The mother rallied quickly and has gone on well. The children were all females, all much about the same size, and making a total weight of eight pounds, or an average of a little over $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds each.