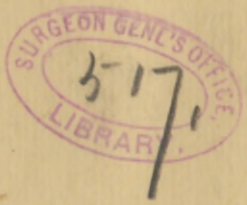
TRAU (A.)

Typhoid fever xxx



[Reprinted from THE MEDICAL NEWS, March 24, 1894.]

TYPHOID FEVER COMPLICATED BY TWIN ABORTION; RECOVERY.[1]

German Hospital, Philadelphia.

SERVICE OF ADAM TRAU, M.D.

[Reported by ARTHUR J. PATEK, M.D., Resident Physician.]

MRS. M. W., twenty-nine years of age, was admitted to the hospital during the acme of a frank attack of typhoid fever. She was found to be four months pregnant. Fearing a possible abortion, the routine bath-treatment was at first withheld, and for three days the temperature combated with spongings. This, however, proved unsatisfactory, and on the third day the bath-treatment was inaugurated. Thirty baths only were given, the temperature falling on the eighth day, but maintaining a fluctuating character about the normal line for two weeks. Again it rose, fluctuating between 104° F. and normal, and being quite septic in type. The possibility of infection from a dead and macerated fetus was considered, but not long entertained, because of the absence of foul discharges and of any other symptom of a septic condition. On the forty-first day of the fever the patient fell into labor. Though the pains were of but moderate severity, labor progressed nicely, and in three hours' time the patient was delivered of five-month twin fetuses—dead, but otherwise normal. Both placentæ

[1] Read before the German Hospital Medical Society, December 4, 1893.

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came away entire and there was but an inappreciable amount of hemorrhage. The fever remained uninfluenced by this complication, nor did the patient suffer any ill effects. The temperature remained as before, of a septic character, for one week after the abortion, and then declined to the normal, remaining so until the woman was discharged.

The fever-curve, when viewed as a whole, gives the impression of a distinct relapse in the fourth week of the disease. The temperature is fluctuating, it is true, but there is a distinct rise, more or less gradual, a stadium during which the abortion took place, and a defervescence.

There are two points of interest in this case worthy of special mention: First, that a pregnant uterus should have remained quiescent during five weeks of almost continuous fever—104.4° being the highest recorded; secondly, that there should have been a temperature bordering on the septic type for three weeks continuously before the abortion and one week thereafter, the contents of the womb being throughout in an apparently healthy state. It was evident, therefore, that the fever was but slightly, if at all, affected by the state of pregnancy, but is to be attributed almost entirely to the typhoidal condition.

As a most interesting feature in the case may be mentioned the fact that delivery of both fetuses was accomplished without rupture of either amniotic sac, a circumstance which is certainly of rather rare occurrence.