

very simple matters, noisy, liable to outbreaks of excitement, and dirty in habits. He had double cataract, and was almost totally blind; he had also a small right inguinal hernia. In October he improved somewhat, and, though very noisy at times, was fairly rational. He varied somewhat, but as I could generally make him understand me I decided to operate on him for his cataract.

On February 17th, 1899, I removed the lens from the left eye, and by keeping careful watch over him prevented any interference with the dressings. He recovered with good sight, and the effect on his mental condition was most marked; he became quiet, rational, and clean in habits. He told us that he was a Christian, and as he had no friends I wrote to the mission to see if employment could be found for him. The missionaries were not able to do anything for him.

In May I operated on the right eye, but he removed the dressings the night after the operation, and the eye did badly, and could only tell light from darkness. He remained sane, however, and appeared very grateful for the restoration of sight. His sentence had expired in 1895, so that there was no difficulty about his release. He was brought before the visitors in May, 1899, and by their order released. I have not heard anything of him since.

Spurious Pregnancy. By G. FINDLAY, M.A., M.B., Brailes,
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ABOUT three years ago I was called to see Mrs. B—, æt. 54, a fairly stout, well-developed woman, mother of nine children, and the wife of an agricultural labourer. Some time before, I had attended her for climacteric disturbances, but her menstrual periods had previously been regular.

She informed me that she believed herself to be pregnant, as she had not menstruated for over three months. I told her that at her age she was not likely to be in that condition, and that the cessation of her periods was due to her time of life; but she persistently said that she was convinced that she was with child, and refused to permit me to make a proper examination, saying that as she had had nine children, and the youngest fifteen years old, she knew perfectly what was the matter. About two months afterwards she called to tell me that her impressions were realised, as she had distinctly felt the child move, and could feel it then; that she had first felt the movements about a fortnight before, when she was at a concert in the village, and that she was getting much stouter round the waist. I again told her that I should like to examine her when she was in bed, but she refused, and asked me to attend her when she was confined.

I did not hear anything more about her until about four months after our last interview. Her husband then came to me at two o'clock one morning, wishing me to attend at once, as his wife was in labour,

and as he had got a woman to look after her while he came for me. On arriving at the cottage I found her in bed, rather excited, and exclaiming that she was glad I had come as the pains were very strong, but seemed to make no progress, although she had been bad for two or three hours. I then made a vaginal examination, and found that there was not even an enlargement of the uterus, although the abdomen was distended. There was no evidence of any tumour. The abdomen was soft on palpation, except where she said she had a pain as I was examining her, where there was a distinct contraction of the abdominal muscles. I repeated that she had made a mistake, that there was no child and no labour; but she would not believe me, so I called her husband and told him in her presence that as there was no child to be born I was going home. Next day Mrs. B— was up and dressed, and could hardly even then believe that she had not been pregnant, although the pains and the distension had disappeared.

I saw her recently, and she told me that she had never menstruated again, that her impression of being pregnant was very real at the time, although she now knows that she was mistaken. Since then she has enjoyed good health, except for a slight attack of bronchitis last spring, and has shown no symptom of mental aberration. There was no hereditary predisposition to insanity.

Note on Mental Condition of a Girl who became a Mother at Fourteen Years of Age.—She lived with a married “aunt,” who was childless. When visited before parturition she appeared unconcerned about her condition, rather vacant. During labour she was wonderfully quiet, taking everything as a matter of course.

After confinement she lay contentedly in bed at first, and did not take much interest in anything, but wished much to get up in three or four days. She took no notice whatever of the child, who was brought up on the bottle by the aunt, who took entire charge of the infant. The girl showed no maternal instincts at all, but was dull and indifferent.

There is no reason to doubt that conception occurred after criminal assault, a few months after irregular menstruation had begun. Her condition was not discovered until three months after the event.

An Attack of Epilepsy (Status Epilepticus) followed within six weeks by an Attack of Chorea, occurring in a Patient suffering from Acute Puerperal Insanity.

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THE following case is worthy of record on account of its rarity, and of the interesting association of neuroses which were manifested by the same patient within a comparatively short period :