

ABSENCE OF ANUS AND PERINEUM.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR ;—I send you a report of the following case which is interesting chiefly on account of its anomalousness, and the adaptability of nature to preternatural anatomical conditions.

On December 30, 1876, I was called to an obstetrical case a few miles away. My patient, Mrs. C——, was rather less than medium-sized ; weight about 100 lbs., aged probably 22 years, and had been married two years. Digital examination revealed a double os uteri, with but a single uterus. These two mouths—or rather what appeared to be two, were caused by a portion of the uterine tissue stretching across the otherwise normal os, and thus forming two openings.

The next discovery was a valvular orifice in the posterior wall of the vagina. This orifice commenced about one and a-half inches above the posterior commissure of the vulva, and led into a roomy canal, extending upwards and backwards, and really into the rectum. My patient had neither anus nor perineum, and nature not to be thwarted in her purposes, had instituted this new departure. In this case, then, we have the ordinary vaginal opening as the channel, through which must pass all faecal matter, in common with all other normal discharges in connection with the genito-urinary system of the female. With the above mentioned exceptions, this woman was well formed and natural for her size in every other respect. She was delivered in a reasonable time of a fine healthy child. A few months after her marriage she aborted once. From an elder sister I learned that the above unique condition of affairs had existed from birth, and was consequently congenital.

Yours, &c.,

W. B. TOWLER.

Wingham, Ont., Feb. 10th, 1878.

ETHER IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR ;—As the following case may be of interest to some of your readers, I send it for publication in the LANCET :—

In Dec. '77 I attended Mrs. C——, æt. 23,

primipara. Recognized a face-anterior presentation, with anterior fontanelle low down. After 10 hours labor, pains flagged, and I then gave ether and applied the forceps, the head being in the middle strait. After 10 or 15 minutes traction, the delivery was effected. The child did not breathe, and so it was placed in a bowl of warm water, sprinkled on the chest with cold water, and Sylvester's method of artificial respiration was practised upon it. At the end of 10 minutes, estimated time, there was no sign of life. I then caught sight of my ether bottle upon the bed, and Verneuil's subcutaneous use of the drug in collapse floated across my mind. Having a hypodermic syringe, I at once injected between 3 and 4 minims of ether deep into the child's arm. Within a minute the child gasped, and in two or three minutes it was breathing well enough to enable me to cease the artificial respiration. We have all seen children suddenly "come to life" from the use of the classical means which were first used in this case, and also from mouth to mouth insufflation, a stinging slap on the nates, &c. Where the respiratory forces should begin at any moment, it is difficult to ascribe the exact value to the action of any stimulus, but in this case it certainly seemed to me that the child would never have breathed but for M. Verneuil's suggestion.

Should occasion require I propose further to test the value of the procedure. In this case no depression followed the stimulation, and no local trouble resulted from the injection.

Yours truly,

Edgar, Feb. 8th, 1878.

N. A. POWELL.

LARGE STONE.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR ;—An article headed "LARGE STONE" on page 182, last number of the LANCET, induces me to send the following :—

On Jan 26th 1875, I removed by lateral operation a stone weighing two ounces and 5 x drachms, from a boy fifteen years old, but who was remarkably small of his age. Recovery perfect. If the stone removed by Dr. Gross, in the article referred to, is considered unusually large for a boy, what will you think of this one?

Yours truly,

D. W. LUNDY.

Albany, Ill., Feb. 5th, 1878