

cians, notably Drs. Morisani and Nori of Naples, and the adoption of the procedure by Professors Leopold, Freund, Porak and others. The operation is becoming popular on the continent, but, as yet, has not gained a foothold in Great Britain.* To Prof. Morisani is due the credit of perfecting this operation. His successes have dispersed the many objections to it, of Sigault, its originator's time.

The first case in America is reported by Dr. Jewett of Brooklyn on the 30th September. Drs. Barton Cooke Hirst and A. S. Broomall have each reported one since. All were successful. The operation is limited to a true conjugate diameter of not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. It is not applicable to certain deformed pelves (Robert Naegle, coxalgic ankylosis) ; nor should it be applied to cases of cancerous or other growths in the pelvis.

It is claimed that the operation will be conservative in the child's interest to the extent of the abandonment of craniotomy. Moreover, it is said that symphysiotomy will supersede the Cæsarian operation, when the latter is performed for the lesser degrees of contracture to which symphysiotomy is applicable.

Dr. Harris, in his paper, gives interesting statistics in a tabular form of 44 cases collected from various continental sources. One mother died from metro-peritonitis, not supposed to be due to the operation ; five suffered from vesico-vaginal fistulæ. With these exceptions the recoveries were perfect ; the longest period of confinement to bed being 35 days. The results to the children showed five deaths ; of these three were born dead (?), the remainder living for some time after birth. All children dying before three days being counted in the mortalities of the operation.

The greatest comparative size of the foetal head to the true conjugate was 100 mm. to 67 mm. in a case of Dr. Nori's ; the smallest being in a case of Prof. Freund's, of 110 to 100.

The simplicity of the operation is one of the claims advanced by its advocates. It is said that lameness as a result is very rare, Dr. Harris, in his report, not mentioning a case. The

* Since reporting the above, I see a case mentioned in the *British Medical Journal*, operated upon by Dr. Smylie, of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, on Nov. 22nd.