

ON A MONSTER PRESENTING ANTERIOR DUPLICITY.

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The Pathological Museum in McGill University has obtained from Dr. W. H. Macdonald, of Rose Bay, N.S., a very excellent example of the above malformation, and it has afforded to one of us (G. P. G.) the opportunity to make the accompanying skiagraphs showing well the underlying skeletal structure of such monstrosities. The history afforded by Dr. Macdonald is the following :—

His patient, a sickly woman, 21 years of age, was two months pregnant at the time of her marriage, and four months after this event was seized with pneumonia. The illness showed itself upon the Monday, and upon the Thursday of the same week she was seriously ill, having a temperature of 104° . That afternoon labor pains set in, but these were not strong till the Friday afternoon, when they became violent, and the patient was delivered of the foetus; she was then so weak that stimulation with strychnine had to be employed. The membranes did not rupture until the os was fully dilated, and then the two heads came down together. Thinking this was a twin birth, Dr. Macdonald tried to push one head back, but could accomplish nothing. He then felt the small middle extremity, and discovered that the two heads were apparently continuous. The condition was so puzzling that he determined not to interfere for a time, then the pains becoming very strong, he was able to deliver the monster.

The foetus showed no signs of life, and purposely he made no effort to restore it. There was an adherent placenta, and it was necessary to employ curettage; the ensuing hæmorrhage was slight, and the mother made a good recovery. The father was healthy, and but 20 years old. Dr. Macdonald could obtain no previous history of monsters occurring in the families, and the only unusual occurrence the patient remembered was a fright received three and a-half months previously, when she was in the cellar and a cat jumped near her. This clearly had nothing to do with the development of the monstrosity. The patient reckoned herself to be six and a-half months pregnant.

The accompanying illustrations render it unnecessary to give a full description of the foetus. It will be seen from these that the foetus is