

### Traumatic Atresia and Imperforation of Vagina.

Case II. Mrs. A., aged 20, primipara. Dr. Heise was asked to visit this case in consultation with Dr. Bacon, of Lockport. Patient had been 24 hours in strong labor, with no progress. Dr. B. stated that he had not been able to ascertain the presentation, as he could not introduce the finger into the vagina. Dr. H., attempting an examination, found the canal completely occluded by a tense, firm membrane, about one-third of an inch from its external orifice. There was a small opening, sufficient to admit a good sized probe, at the upper or pubic part of this membrane, but no justifiable force could make way for the finger. Through this opening the waters had discharged some 10 or 12 hours previously, since which time the patient had been in strong labor, with constant expulsive pains. The husband being asked if he had ever had complete connection with his wife, replied that "he had," but on being questioned closer, stated that he "had some time ago, but not recently." On being pressed for his knowledge of any cause for her present condition, he acknowledged that he had been married only about two months, that he had had sexual intercourse with his wife some time previous to their marriage, that finding herself *enclinte*, they had procured the services of an abortionist, who had operated on her for 15 minutes with a wire, and pronounced the operation complete; that after this operation she was sick and confined to her bed for six weeks, purulent and bloody discharges taking place from the vagina.

Inasmuch as the passage of a probe through the orifice in the membrane showed a cavity beyond it, Dr. H. hoped that it might be the only obstruction. On dividing it, however, he found still others, in the form of fibrous bands, stretching obliquely across the vaginal canal, interlacing with each other, the whole length of the vagina, and very firm and strong. Carefully dividing these, the foetal head was plainly felt in the first position, and the patient was soon delivered of a healthy child. Severe inflammation of the vagina, womb, and peritoneum supervened, and she died on the ninth or tenth day thereafter.—*Medical Examiner*.

### Medical Items.

We notice with satisfaction that, in the award of the Monthyon Prize (Concours of Medicine and Surgery), Prof. Austin Flint, Jr., of this city, received an "honorable mention" with a "recompense" of 1,500 francs, for his paper on a "New Function of the Liver," etc. This paper appeared originally in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, October, 1862, and was translated into French, and entered for the Monthyon Prize at the instance of Prof. Claude Bernard. This handsome acknowledgement of the merits of the paper, as well as the success it has met in the Concours, is a matter not only for congratulation to the author, but an occasion whereon we may indulge in a little pardonable glorification at the honor conferred upon the profession of this country.

The prize itself, of 2,500 francs, was awarded to

Villemin for his Recherches upon the Inoculation of Tubercle—which is, undoubtedly, one of the most valuable contributions recently made to the science of medicine.—*New York Medical Journal*.

### Government of the Medical Profession by Itself.

Many propositions have recently been urged in this country for the improvement of medical education, and for regulating the admission of members into the profession. The least feasible and the one most fraught with danger is that recently put forth to effect these objects by the establishment of national schools, and the appointment of professors and examiners by legislative or executive bodies. The medical profession is best competent to manage its own affairs; all that is required is authority to enforce its regulations. But for the profession to seek to have their affairs managed by parties selected by political bodies would be untrue to themselves, and tend to the destruction of the dignity, usefulness and competency of its members.

The *British Medical Journal*, July 24, 1869, contains the following just remarks on this subject:—

There is a rumor—whether correct or incorrect, we cannot say with certainty—that it is proposed, in future medical legislation, to abolish entirely the present Medical Council, and to substitute for it a Government Council composed mainly of members not belonging to the medical profession; and to institute a Board of Examiners appointed by the Government. Such a proposal as this for the constitution of a Council to regulate the profession cannot for a moment be entertained; and, if ever made, must be met by strenuous opposition on the part of the profession. Its adoption would only tend to the degradation of medicine; for it would imply an unfitness, which does not exist, on the part of the medical profession to direct the education of its members, and in other respects to regulate its internal economy. The Law, the Church, and other professions, make their own regulations on such matters as education and admission, aided by the law so far as is necessary to give them power. The medical profession is as competent as any other to govern itself. All that it asks from the law is, that a body of men, who shall beyond cavil represent all interests in fair proportion, shall be supplied with well defined powers for making and carrying out such regulations as are essential to the well-being of the profession and conducive to the public good. The profession can never consent to be placed under the direction of a body of men, however eminent, who will have at best but an imperfect knowledge of its wants, and whose appointment, in fact, may rest in the hands of some one adviser of the Government.—*News and Library*.

### Homeopathic.

In the report on Obstetrics read before the American Institute, is the detailed report of a case of "imperforate hymen" ruptured with Silica 6000! It did not state whether the attending physician was male or female. The query we wish to put to our Homeopathic brethren is: if the 6000th potency will suffice to rupture an imperforate hymen, how much will be required to effect impregnation?—*Electic Medical Journal*.