

but it struck me as rather extraordinary that she was so much colder than females in her condition usually are, the only explanation I could give of this, unsatisfactory as it appeared, was to attribute it to the weather, which was pretty severe. On arrival of her friend, I went into an adjoining room, so that she could have her bed, &c., properly arranged, where I fell asleep, probably I was there half an hour before being summoned to the patient, this must have been about 5, A.M.; on questioning her, there was still no more appearance of any regular labor pains, but considerable puctitation, and some uneasiness about the front of the belly, which was not hard generally, nor of the size which we should expect with a female, who herself considered she was about to give birth to triplets, as she had jocosely said. I now made a vaginal examination, blood was issuing, but no membranous pouch, lax, or distended could be felt, or any relaxation or dilatation of the os uteri, everything was soft in that direction, except that the head of a child could be felt through the parieties of the uterus at the upper part of the vagina. I must confess I thought it extremely strange. However, in efforts to warm her with hot bricks and bottles, and in persuasive requests to take a little brandy and water occasionally, which, by the way, was repeatedly vomited; perhaps a second half-hour elapsed before I made another examination per vaginam, at this time I applied my left hand on the naked abdomen to see if any auxiliary effort would induce protrusion of the membranes, it failed in doing so, but the attempt sent a chill of horror through my frame, for to the left of the umbilicus I distinctly felt something that appeared like the knuckle of a persons finger, sticking up at right angles to the abdominal parieties; in an instant the horrible truth flashed across me that the uterus had given way at the very first onset of labor, and that the projecting substance was either an elbow or knee of the infant expelled into the cavity of the abdomen. On questioning her as to the existence of this irregularity previous to the accession of labor, and ascertaining that she was sure it never had existed before, I made known to her husband I entertained the greatest alarm for her safety, and requested him to call in Dr. Sewell. On his arrival he confirmed my diagnosis; reaction had come on at this time, some color appeared in the face, and the pulse was much steadier and firmer than it had been, but still the same absence of any labor pains. Her awful situation was communicated to the husband without any reserve; he insisted that nothing should be left undone to save her, and at his urgent request I reluctantly undertook to remove the fœtus by the Cæsarian Section. At 8 o'clock was administered 80 drops of laudanum, and at 10 I performed the operation, assisted by Drs. Sewell and Grant; if ever the blessings of chloroform could be fully realized, it would be in