

of the stomach. The paper was chiefly to draw attention to the subject. In reply to Dr. Fox, he said that he had made the sections vertical with a double-bladed knife, and examined them with a low power and by help of a parabolic condenser. He had found casts best in children who had died a few days after the disease began; but in other cases he had not found them, and sometimes he had found only plugs, as described by Dr. Fox. These plugs, he had no doubt, were the result of inflammatory action.—*Proceedings of Royal Med. and Chirurg. Society, in London Lancet.*

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### Midwifery.

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#### SEA-TANGLE, (*LAMINARIA DIGITATA*)—ITS USE IN THE TREATMENT OF FLEXIONS OF THE UTERUS.

By M. S. BUTTLES, M.D., New York City.

The *Laminaria Digitata* was first brought before the notice of the profession by Dr. Sloan of Ayr, in the *Glasgow Medical Journal* for October, 1862. In the *Medical Times and Gazette* of November 28, 1863, is an article by Dr. J. G. Wilson, in which he calls attention to its value in dilating the urethra and os uteri. Mr. Critchett also mentions it in the treatment of stricture of the lachrymal duct, in an article, published in the *Lancet* of February 6, 1864.

It possesses many very important advantages; it can be worked up of any size and length; it is readily made smooth when dry, and is quite firm, yet elastic enough for all practicable purposes, so that it can be passed as readily as a silver probe. When exposed to moisture it expands to about four times its former size.

While making some experiments with this sea-weed I discovered that if a bougie made of it was bent while dry it would remain so until it was moistened, when it would gradually resume its former straightness; from this I conceived the idea of using it in the treatment of that frequent and hitherto obstinate displacement of the uterus known as flexion, whereupon I immediately gave it a trial, and the result thus far is of a satisfactory nature.

*Case*—Mrs. C———had been troubled for twelve years with dysmenorrhœa, arising from flexion of the cervix uteri. So severe were her pains at each menstrual period that she was obliged to take her bed. The ordinary treatment at the hands of several skillful practitioners had given her no relief.

August 20, 1864, three days previous to her expected menstrual flow,