

In a case recorded by M. Stendel, the tumour burst during labour, six or seven pounds of blood were quickly poured out, and the patient expired. Mr. Crosse of Norwich, says, that in a case which he saw during a protracted labour, rupture of the left labium took place, to the extent of two or three inches, followed by the great loss of blood, and the patient died undelivered."

Within the last year I saw a case in which a thrombus, about as large as a good-sized red plum, formed in the left labium, in the seventh month of pregnancy, and gave the lady *intolerable annoyance*, so that on the 18th of June I made a very small puncture into it, and discharged its contents; but on the 13th of July I was again sent for, and found her in a similar state of distress, from pain caused by a feeling of weight and tension, of which she complained most grievously. She described the sensation she experienced as resembling that produced by the pressure of the child's head when distending the perineum. I found the tumour rather larger than before, and again punctured it, after which the lady suffered no further annoyance. It did not fill again, and on the 24th of August she was safely delivered of a full-grown child. There was no appearance to mark the situation where the tumour had been; nor was there any attempt at its reproduction subsequently.

So far, all the cases alluded to have been of effusion into the external labia pudendi, but I think I have learned from sufficient observation that these are not the only situations in which thrombus occurs during, or in consequence of labour, but that quite a similar accident, though differing much in degree, happens not unfrequently in the tissue of the cervix uteri, and especially in the substance of the anterior lip of the os, giving rise to a condition greatly resembling in some of its characters that which is generally spoken of as *œdema* of the part, from which, however, it is altogether a different affection. The first time that this matter attracted my attention in practice was in the following case:—

Mr. S. requested my attendance on his wife, on 11th March, 1830, at ten p. m., she being then in labour. The night before she had diarrhœa and some discharge of blood from the vagina; she had six children by a former marriage, and her last was now five years old. I found her with labour established, and with some hæmorrhage, but not much. One part of the lower portion of the cervix, towards the right side, felt very prominent, thickened and spongy, so as most strikingly to resemble a portion of the placenta; and it appeared to me that it was from this part the hæmorrhage was proceeding. The head presented naturally; the labour progressed favourably, and as the descending head came to press more forcibly into the os uteri and on the spongy tumour, its contents were discharged; the hæmorrhage ceased, and did not again return, and at half-past twelve o'clock a male child was born, healthy and vigorous. The placenta came away in about ten minutes. There was no further hæmorrhage or other unfavourable symptom, and the lady recovered well. Mr. S. was a medical man, and, seeing the hæmorrhage, he became anxious, and made an examination, when he was greatly alarmed at feeling, as he thought, the placenta at the os uteri, and immediately sent for me.

After hearing his report, I examined the patient, and at the first moment thought his account was only too correct; but a little further examination easily satisfied me of the true state of the case, because it was clearly evident that the tumour resembling the placenta was not merely applied to the inner surface of the uterus, but was identified with the substance of the organ, so that it was impossible to insinuate the point of the finger between them, while it could be readily passed behind or partially around. To those who may not have met with