

sary as soon as the parts were sufficiently dilated, to bring down the feet, and to deliver before the strength of the patient was exhausted." p. 96.

Dr. Collins, in his "Practical Treatise on Midwifery," does not mention this presentation. It is surprising that, in such a vast mass of personal experience as therein recorded, a similar case should not have occurred.

Neither, in Dr. Robert Lee's "Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Midwifery," nor in the same author's "Clinical Midwifery," which contains the histories of 545 cases of difficult, preternatural, and complicated labour, do I find any case of presentation of the back or loins recorded; and Dr. Lee has informed me that he has never met with an undoubted case of back presentation in his large experience.

Dr. Churchill places this presentation in his second division, but does not speak of having met with a case of the kind. Dr. Ramsbotham says it *may* occur, but is very uncommon. Dr. Blundell mentions only its possibility. Dr. Burns regards it merely as a stage of breech presentation that would terminate in that manner if left to nature. The narrative of the above case proves that such is not necessarily the course of this position. Although averse to meddling midwifery, and having almost unlimited faith in the powers of nature, yet I conceive that I should not have done my duty to my patient, had I left her to wait until nature changed the position of the child.

I am indebted to my friend, Dr. Allen, of Islington, for the opportunity, in his extensive library of obstetric works, of examining numerous French authors, and have found mention of back presentations, in several. Thus Madame de Boivin\* describes four positions of dorsal presentations:—1. The head placed anteriorly above the pubis, the back posteriorly; the left side of the infant corresponding to the right side of the mother: the nates and feet being in the fundus uteri. 2. The head placed posteriorly, the pelvis anteriorly; the right side of the child corresponding to the right side of the mother. 3. The head to the right side. 4. The head to the left side. The directions given by

Madame de Boivin for the management of these cases are most minute, but appear more theoretical than experimental. Madame de Boivin mentions its occurrence six times in upwards of twenty thousand cases in her practice and at the Maternité.

Velpeau likewise refines on the management of this form of preternatural labour, and also gives an engraving thereof, but does not state that the case had occurred to him.

Holloway, July, 1850.

## SURGERY.

*Bubo Perforating the Abdomen.*—P. E., ætat 22, a Scotchman, machinist, was admitted into the New York Hospital, under Dr. Post, with a suppurating bubo in the left groin, which discharged an ill-conditioned pus profusely from a spontaneous opening.—The bubo first appeared three weeks ago, since which time the patient has been working at his laborious occupation, which requires him to sit, and in which a violent strain is brought upon the abdominal muscles; he has had no treatment. The seat of the bubo is above Poupart's ligaments, but much nearer the anterior superior spine of the ilium than usual; in fact, the undermining of the integument extends beyond this point. There is no undermining of integument below the opening, but the depth is greater here than at any other point, and there is a circumscribed livid discolouration of the surface, the latter being of a florid healthy colour elsewhere. (This was observed subsequently.) Five months ago patient had chancre, followed by a bubo, situated an inch or two below the present, where there is now the cicatrix of the opening which was made to give exit to the matter; has had no chancre since, and no purulent discharge from the urethra; of tolerably steady habits; general health fair. Ordered cataplasms; low diet.

June 1st. The discharge continues very profuse, but its character has improved; all inflammation has subsided; patient was brought under the influence of sulphuric ether, and the unhealthy undermined integument pared off with a scissors, so as to expose the surface of

\* *Memorial de l'Art des Accouchemens.*