

are related by Smellie, in which large heads were expelled.* "I have known," says Merriman, "one hydrocephalic fœtus pass entire, whose head was *seventeen* inches; another passed alive, and lived an hour, whose head measured in circumference *twenty-two* inches; both the above labors were long and painful."† In Perfect's case, the head extracted whole, the breech having originally presented, measured 24½ inches in circumference.‡ Heads much under those related by Smellie and Merriman are occasionally met with by accoucheurs.

6th. *The amount of Fluid.* If the size of hydrocephalic heads vary, the amount of fluid varies also.

In 1751 a Mr. H. relates a case of a fœtus where the head contained a large quantity of bloody serum.§ Ramsbotham (père) relates two cases in which he supposed each cranium to have held many pints of fluid.|| In Smellie's first case, *three* pints were collected on the cranium being punctured.¶ In case 20 between two and three pints were poured into the skull, through the opening by which the hydrocephalic fluid was extracted.* Mr. T. Smith, Surgeon, Great Milton, delivered a woman of a child, whose head contained *four* pints of fluid.† In a case related by Dr. Georget, *four* pints of a clear yellowish fluid were evacuated by means of a trochar previous to delivery.‡ A woman pregnant for the eighth time, was delivered by Dr. Hyewier of a fœtus whose head contained *one quart* of yellowish coloured serum (*L'Union Medicale*).§ Mr. Robertson, of Aberdeen, relates the case of a woman who died 45 hours after delivery of her eighth child, from the effects of pressure upon the organs within the pelvis caused by a hydrocephalic head which contained *four* pints of water.|| A case is mentioned by Blanchard in which four pounds of water were evacuated from the head of a fœtus after birth.¶ The case related by Mr. Marsh already alluded to, the head contained 154 ozs, or 9lbs 10 ozs of fluid!* The amount of fluid in the case of Mrs. W's child, cannot be stated with anything-

* Smellie's Midwifery, vol. ii., p. 14 and 210.

† Merriman's Midwifery.

‡ Ramsbotham, p. 272.

§ Smellie's Midwifery, p. 42.

|| Practical observations, part 1.

¶ Collection 31.

* Ibid 35.

† Lancet, 1847.

‡ London Medical Repository, vol. 1st

§ Lancet, 1847.

|| Medical Gazette, July 13, 1840.

¶ Good's Study of Medicine.

* London Medical Gazette, vol. 17, p. 986.